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# 50 hurt in day-long fighting

# Three feared dead in riot at blazing jail

By Ronald Faux and Peter Davenport

A BLACK pall of smoke hung over Strangeways Prison in Manchester last night as riot police and prison staff fought to regain control from rioting prisoners amid reports that at least three inmates had died in the violence.

Although the Home Office could not confirm the deaths, sources in the emergency services said bodies had been found inside the burnt-out building where at least 50 prisoners and prison officers were injured, some of them severely, during the day-long riot.

Sept. Barry Owen, of Greater Manchester Police, said last night that about 50 inmates and prison staff had been injured in the rioting which had caused extensive damage.

He said talks were being held with prisoners but refused to disclose their nature.

Dozens of prisoners were still on the roof last night, eight hours after the disturbances began, occasionally demanding through a loud-hailer for the media to be allowed inside the jail to hear their grievances. Mr. Owen said most of prisoners were now "peaceful".

Firemen were protected by riot police from prisoners hurling missiles as they fought a blaze in the centre of the building. Flames 30ft high threatened to engulf the prison's gymnasium block, chapel and remand centre. A fire officer said damage had been

caused by at least four fires. The prison was sealed by police after hundreds of prisoners moved on to the roof and set fire to several parts of the building.

North Manchester General Hospital, the first call hospital in a big emergency, said eight prison officers and 20 prisoners had been admitted; several had serious injuries. Other casualties were taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Mr Ian Fowler, spokesman for North Manchester, said those receiving treatment included a number of drug overdose cases and several with serious head injuries consistent with having been hit by missiles.

At one stage 1,000 prisoners were reported to be loose within the prison building. Roofs were stripped and tiles, chandeliers and mirrors hurled into the yard below.

A prisoner with a loud-hailer shouted: "Stop brutality. We are having no more. You don't live behind here."

"We are not animals, we are human beings. Maybe we have made mistakes but everybody makes mistakes."

The trouble appeared to be carefully organized. As 300 inmates attacked prison officers in the chapel, four or five fires were started in cells and in the prison gymnasium.

Ambulances and fire engines ringed the high walls of the prison along with police vehicles.

A single prison communications centre was set up in Charter Street near the prison entrance and officers with riot shields and helmets stood by as the prisoners threw missiles.

About 40 firemen went into the prison and casualties were seen being carried out on stretchers during the afternoon.

There were reports that some of the casualties were inmates serving sentences for sexual offences and who had been attacked by other prisoners.

Strangeways was built in 1868 to house 970 prisoners. There are now more than 1,600 in the prison, 500 of them on remand, and some young offenders.

It is said to be one of the most overcrowded prisons in the country.

Mr Robert Litherland, Labour MP for Manchester Central, told reporters outside the prison that the Home Office

## Mugabe says he has one-party mandate

From Jan Raith, Harare

PRESIDENT Mugabe of Zimbabwe declared yesterday that the results of elections last week, giving his ruling Zanu (PF) party 117 out of 120 seats in Parliament were "a mandate for a one-party state".

But his remarks were couched in cautious terms, and it appears unlikely that he will outlaw political opposition soon after the restraints of the Lancaster House Constitution expire on the tenth anniversary of independence on April 18. After that he will require only a two-thirds majority to abolish the clause in the Bill of Rights guaranteeing freedom of political association.

He attacked reports of a voter stay-away as part of "the discreditable and dishonourable way the BBC has gone about our elections". He said: "The reality is that people accept our policies, pure and simple."

Mugabe victory, page 8  
Leading article, page 13

"We can take it as a

By Libby Jakes

JOURNALISTS are frequently accused of being unscrupulous by the truth, but April 1 is one occasion when they can legitimately make up stories. This year, however, it was by no means easy to distinguish between the April Fools and some of the other reports carried by the Sunday newspapers.

Proving that the truth is often stranger than fiction, *The Sunday Telegraph* quite correctly reported that pigeons are flocking to a network of homes in the Midlands where Muslim housewives have found coded messages from Allah in the seeds of strawberries.

Strange, but true as the story about the middle-vegtables, was a report by the paper's environment correspondent that a Leicester firm has

developed an electronic mole scatter to capitalise on the reluctance of conservation-minded gardeners to use strychnine and other more final methods of mole control.

Among the "genuine" hoaxes *The Guardian* staged the most elaborate and successful of all, fooling even the trade press with advance publicity for new supplement to the Saturday paper, *The Guardian for Sunday*. The pilot edition which appeared on March 31, ahead of the "real" launch scheduled for September, included an article on the "Relative Values" of television presenter Bamber Gascoigne and his son, Paul, "Sports player", and an obituary for Lorraine d'Alace, the Dowager Lady Huntingdon-Hummingbird.

There was also a leading article disclosing that the entire project — "the most radical innovation in

British journalism for a decade... the paper they'll still be talking about on Monday" — was doomed at birth. Its staff will no doubt be returning to regular jobs on *Weekend Guardian*.

*The Independent on Sunday* reported that the controversy aroused in the international art world by the restoration of Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, was nothing compared with the fury about to be unleashed by the rehanging today of the world's best-loved painting, *mona lisa*.

The newspaper claimed that the *Mona Lisa* was about to be returned to public view in the Louvre after extensive cleaning, during which the sitter's enigmatic half-smile was replaced with a more "authentic" scowl. The report included a close-up photograph of the new expression, said to have wiped the smile off the

faces of museum staff. It did not neglect to mention, however, that several experts were "unaware yesterday of the restoration being contemplated, let alone carried out".

*The News of the World* claimed that "Eurotunnel experts have owned up to an incredible £4 billion blunder — the French and English sides will NOT meet in the middle". Apparently completion would be delayed because French engineers insisted on using metric specifications.

The foreign press also enjoyed a short silly season. The newspaper of the Soviet Communist Youth organization, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, reported that the United Nations has made overtures to the Soviet Government about buying Nikita Khrushchev's shoe, which he rapped on a UN desk as he warned the United States in 1961: "We will bury you."



Roof-top protest: Prisoners tearing up states and hurling them from the chapel roof at Strangeways Prison yesterday

## Waddington to face Labour anger at poll tax riot 'smear'

By Philip Webster and Stewart Tendler

MR David Waddington will today report to MPs on the London poll-tax riot amid all-party condemnation of the disturbances in which more than 330 police and 86 members of the public were injured and Labour anger at what it regards as a Government attempt to link the party with the rioting.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher voiced "absolute horror" at the violence, and Mr Neil Kinnock accused the rioters of "abusing the rights to protest in the most cowardly and vicious way". They were enemies of freedom, he said.

As shop-owners and street-cleaners cleared away the damage yesterday, Scotland Yard said the main trouble had come from a group of 3,000 to 3,500 within an otherwise peaceful protest of 40,000. Militants, members of the Socialist Workers' Party and various anarchist groups were alleged to have been involved in the hard core of the rioting.

Senior officers defended the Yard's strategy in policing the demonstration, denying they

had ever lost control but underlined the ferocity of the attack on officers. There were 341 arrests and a team of detectives is investigating incidents including three arson attacks, looting and assault on the worst rioting central London for 20 years.

Officers yesterday described being trapped among scaffolding and bent on the destruction of anyone opposing them. Some of the worst confrontations took place after rioters were

thwarted in an attempt to smash barriers and storm the new security gates at the end of Downing Street.

The riot led to an intensification of the political battle over the poll tax. As ministers called on Mr Kinnock to withdraw the whip from MPs who are refusing to pay the poll tax, Labour leaders were furious at what they saw as the Government's attempt to smear the party and distract attention from Tory difficulties over the community charge.

"It is patently unacceptable, wrong and absurd to link either anarchists and criminal gangs operating at this demonstration with any part of the Labour Party or any individual within it," the party said.

The irritation is expected to spill over in the Commons today as the Home Secretary outlines the Government's response to the riot and the progress of the police inquiry. Mr Waddington, who was confronted by more protesters yesterday when he visited some of the areas worst hit by

the rioting, blamed the disorder on a relatively small number of thugs who deliberately set out to hijack the demonstration.

But he also said that hardened Labour MPs who advocated non-payment of the poll tax had to share some of the blame as the rioters may have used the MPs' rhetoric to excuse their behaviour.

Mrs Thatcher, in a speech to

Continued on page 24, col 8

Riot analysis, page 2, 3  
Thin dividing line, page 12  
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## Patten signals blow to tax cut hopes

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

AN expensive rescue operation designed to ensure that community charge bills are cut next year could rule out reductions in income tax in the run-up to the general election, the Government acknowledged yesterday.

Senior ministers confirmed they are examining ways of guaranteeing that an extra cash injection into the community charge system next year of up to £4 billion is used by councils to reduce poll tax bills rather than to increase spending.

Ministers will consider whether new powers are needed to order councils to use the extra government grant to cut bills, or whether existing legislation allowing ministers to make specific grants direct to charge payers, as through the existing transitional relief scheme, will be sufficient.

The move is part of a fundamental review of the charge being led by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, with the objective of putting proposals to a Cabinet committee in the next few months.

It was announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher in her speech to the Conservative Central Council at Chechenham on Saturday.

Describing some poll tax bills as "a scandal", the Prime Minister said that people "will not look in vain" for the Government and Parliament to protect them as community charge payers from "overpowering taxation."

Mr Patten confirmed the review, and its aim to cut bills, in an interview on the BBC television programme *On The Record* yesterday.

However, he said it was extremely difficult to see how there could be both significant cuts in the poll tax and big cuts in income tax between now and the next election.

Some ministers believe that the public spending targets for the next two years confirmed in the Budget are already unrealistic. Hopes of getting nearer the Government's stated target of a 20p basic rate of income tax are disappearing fast, according to ministers.

Meanwhile the Labour Party claimed yesterday — as the community charge became law in England and Wales — that between 26 million and 28 million people would lose out under the poll tax.

Grass roots faithful, page 6  
Letters, page 13

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## All the jokes fit to print now that April's here

By Libby Jakes

Profiles of the five finalists in the £5,000 Environment Award jointly sponsored by *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's *PM* will be published and broadcast each day this week, beginning today.

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A surrounded policeman loses his helmet during the protest in London on Saturday

## Officers tell of moments they feared for their lives

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Correspondent

A POLICE officer yesterday described the moment he and his colleagues realized their van had been deliberately immobilized in the centre of a mob in Trafalgar Square on Saturday. All they could do was keep the doors locked as blows rained on the vehicle.

At one point a piece of scaffolding was thrust into the van missing the radio operator and piercing the roof.

The story emerged yesterday as officers described their experiences; several thought the police had lost control as they faced waves of violence and abuse.

Standing beside the Ford Transit van, PC David Nield, aged 24, said: "We realized we could not go backwards or forwards. Crowd barriers had been placed under the wheels by the crowd. I was very, very scared."

PC Nield had been called to the demonstration with a specialist riot group. The seven men in the van joined other units in Trafalgar

Square and went to the assistance of a WPC.

"We realized as we got into it, it was out of control," PC Nield said. "We just closed the doors and hung on."

Coins, marbles and metal flew through the air; she was hit on the head but did not realize what had happened until a colleague told her she had been struck by a scaffolding pole.

"In England you just do not expect people to be so vicious, violent against the ordinary police officer," she said.

Sergeant James Miller and PC Robert Huntley of the Transport Police were trapped by the crowd and their Peugeot car was smashed.

The van escaped after the driver managed to manoeuvre backwards and forwards and get free of the barriers.

WPC Fiona Roberts, aged 30, had been in Whitehall near Downing Street at the height of the violence. She was detained in hospital overnight after she was hit by a piece of scaffolding, collapsed and temporarily lost the sight of one eye. As the violence in Downing Street continued mainly of anarchists and SWP

members, her colleagues were outnumbered. "The crowd was becoming very abusive, shouting, swearing."

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A photograph through a wide-angle lens shows running riot police attempting to break up the crowd in Trafalgar Square on Saturday.

## Anarchist tactics mirror earlier confrontations

By Jamie Dettmer

THE incidents which sparked the initial clashes between police and demonstrators at Saturday's march were remarkably similar to those which led to a riot at a miners' demonstration in the capital five years ago.

Some police officers suspect that the leaders of the 200-strong group which staged the sit-down outside Downing Street at the weekend, leading to the first confrontations with police, had the miners' march of February 1985 in mind. Then, more than a hundred people were arrested.

It is generally recognized by police that it was the sit-down in Whitehall, combined with missile-throwing on the south side of Trafalgar Square, that triggered Saturday's riot.

In February 1985, a relatively peaceful miners' demonstration was taken over in exactly the same way. Nottinghamshire miners, with the support of members of the Socialist Workers' Party, sat down between Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence building after several of their number were arrested.

Anarchists from the Class War, Crowther and Spartacus groups took this as a signal to send a fusillade of stones, bottles and sticks at police ranks, again on the south side of Trafalgar Square.

Reports from witnesses on Saturday, including one from Mr George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, suggested the sit-down brigade in Downing Street consisted mainly of anarchists and SWP

members. Mr Galloway said it had been started by "a couple of hundred anarchists".

Other reports confirmed the presence of members of Class War and assorted anarchist groups. Black anarchist flags were on view. Anarchist papers and magazines were on sale, including *Class War, Black Flag and Organise!*

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, the officer in charge of the police operation, acknowledged the orchestrated nature of the initial incidents. He said:

"There were certainly some concerted assaults. As the

March was going past Downing Street, certain people were stopping. There was some planning there, obviously."

One self-proclaimed Class War member was quoted as saying: "I'm from Class War and I don't care if I get arrested. I just want hospital beds to be filled with the pigs."

The Hurricane anarchist group of London reissued a 32-page manual, *Written in Flames*, which provides advice on evading police forensic methods and details ways of sabotaging police tactics.

A knowledge of these was displayed on Saturday. The police tactic of trying to split up a riotous mob of thousands into groups of hundreds seemed to be undermined for two or three hours. Groups of rioters kept reforming.

In the weeks leading up to Saturday's march, anarchist publications urged their supporters to prepare for "bash the police" mayhem. Class War made a statement declaring "full support" for violence in dispute in 1986.

While the anarchist groups

tend to employ quick-moving tactics and like to concentrate on smashing property and cars, the SWP usually keep together and slog it out with police. This was visible on Saturday. Before the march, the SWP had said that two-thirds of its membership of about 5,000 would be in attendance.

The role of Militant in the initial clashes is more debatable. Mr Tommy Sheridan and Mr Steve Nally, Militant members and leaders of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, condemned the violence. But accounts by witnesses spoke of Militant involvement in the fighting.

The SWP and the Revolutionary Communist Party, like the anarchists, have clearly had their noses put out of joint over Militant's success with the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

Before Militant muscled in on the agitation and built up the federation, SWP and RCP were the leading groups in a fledgling non-payment campaign. RCP set up a Smash the Poll Tax Campaign, but soon realized that it could not compete with the larger and better organized Militant.

The rivalry between Militant and the SWP and RCP is based partly on ideology. Unlike the other two groups, Militant is more concerned to use the agitation to facilitate a wave of Trotskyite entries to the Labour Party. SWP and RCP gave this up a long time ago and are eager to build up a mass socialist rival to Labour.

While the anarchist groups

**Sustained and savage violence by a minority**

By Our Crime Correspondent

A MOB of rioters, including police in Whitehall attempted to breach barriers and storm Downing Street, the senior Scotland Yard officer in charge of policing the poll tax demonstration said yesterday.

Invited to police, the rioters resorted to a vicious barrage of missiles against officers who were unprotected and without shields or riot helmets.

As detectives began investigating at least 200 reported crimes, ranging from assault to arson, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, in charge of policing central London, said a peaceful large-scale protest of 40,000 had been thwarted by 3,000 people.

"It was to be a fairly large-scale but peaceful demonstration by people from all over the United Kingdom. The majority were well behaved and came and went peacefully. There was a minority who decided they would use this to further their own special causes," he said.

"I have never seen such sustained and savage violence used directly against the police. It was simply brutal assault," Mr Meynell said. Innocent people had been used as cover.

"I think yesterday you saw a touch of anarchy coming to London. There were some anarchists there and other extremist fringe elements. Drug had also been to blame."

Asked if there was evidence of planning among the rioters, Mr Meynell said that, outside Downing Street, the initial trouble-spot, there had been "a mutual recognition of kindred spirits": "Whether you could put a definite plan to that... certainly people stopping were catalysts."

Police intelligence assessments of the event gave officers no inkling of the scale of the violence that exploded and led to 341 arrests and, according to Scotland Yard last night, injuries to 331 police and 86 members of the public.

Sixty-eight people are scheduled to appear in court today and others are bailed to appear later. Charges include burglary, theft, looting and assault.

Mr Meynell defended the policing strategy. Scotland Yard had fielded a total of 2,500 officers, one of the largest contingents deployed for a demonstration in London for some years, to control the protest and the ensuing riot.

Mr Meynell said there were enough officers and repudiated suggestions from some of his junior officers who were on the streets during the riot that, at times, the police lost control of the situation.

He denied any suggestion of over-reaction by police. Mounted police were not put on the streets until an hour after the violence began.

Describing events on Saturday, Mr Meynell said that at the beginning of the march, one group had assembled away from the throng after apparently failing to gain control of the head of the march.

The trouble in Whitehall was created by a hard core and the rest were diverted eventually. Mounted officers were sent into Whitehall after an hour of missile throwing.

Once Whitehall was cleared, officers were withdrawn. The small cordon left behind was then charged by rioters, who had regrouped.

There were three cases of

## Timetable for a day of lawlessness

1 (1.15pm): The march of 35,000 anti-poll tax protesters sets off in a carnival atmosphere from Kensington Park, south London.

2 (2.15): As the first marchers approach Parliament, a handful of missiles are thrown but police take no action.

3 (2.30): First sign of trouble as vanguard of demonstration stops moving in Whitehall opposite Downing Street. Barricades are pushed down outside Parliament and two smoke bombs set off; tail of march has still not left Kennington.

4 (2.45): More missiles are thrown in Parliament Square.

5 (3.00): Demonstrators in Whitehall bombard police with missiles near Downing Street but some marchers continue to move towards Trafalgar Square, where the MPs Mr Tony Benn and Mr George Galloway are addressing a peaceful crowd.

6 (3.15): Intensified trouble in Whitehall.

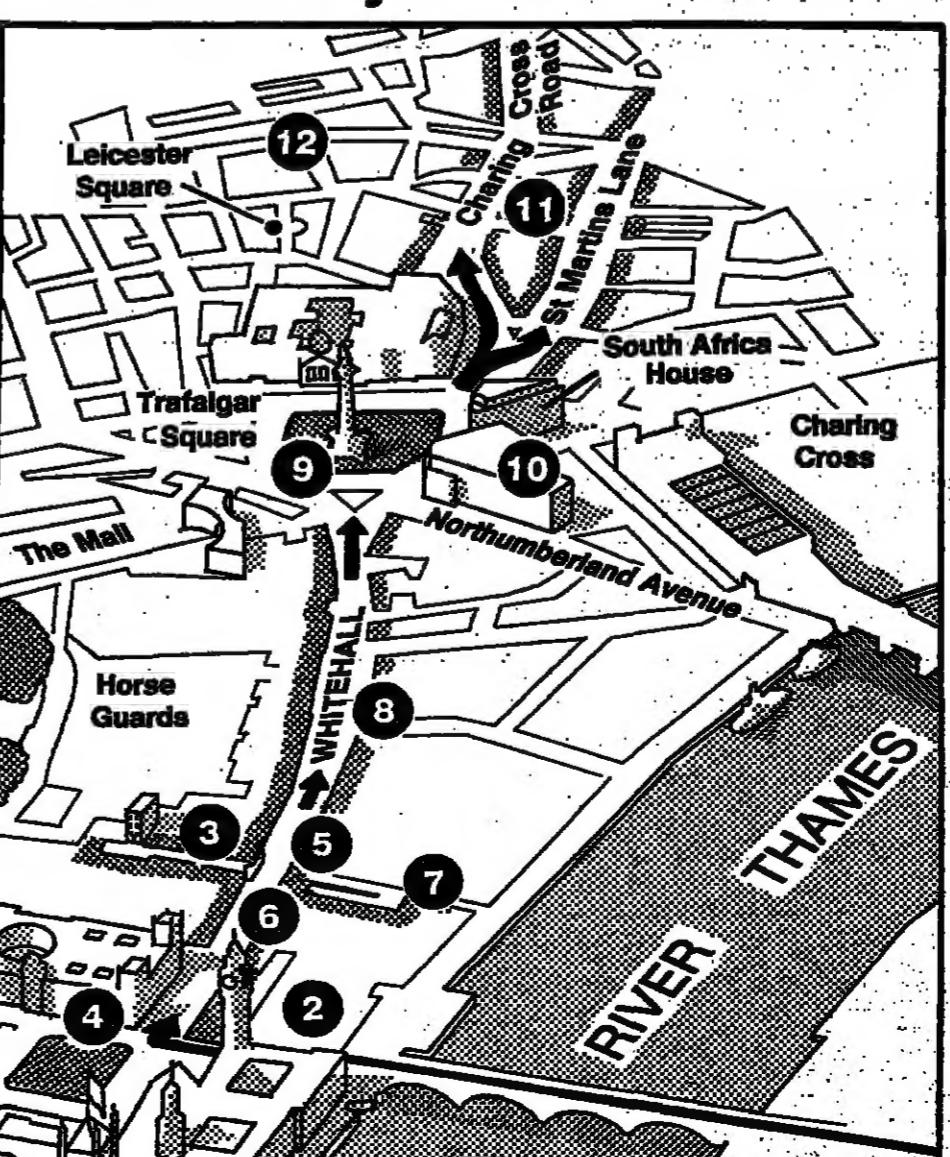
7 (3.30): Police decide to divert rest of march away from Whitehall along Embankment. Mounted police go in through Richmond Terrace to divide crowd, sending some south and others north to Trafalgar Square.

8 (4.00): Unprotected police, facing hail of missiles, try to clear Whitehall. Some protesters start breaking away from the rally and going home as lawlessness takes hold.

9 (4.25): In response to worsening situation, police are issued with short shields and protective clothing. In Trafalgar Square rally officially ends. Barrage of missiles rains down on police from a building site on south of square.

10 (4.45): Serious trouble in the south-east corner of square, where an office block has been set alight. Other rioters smash windows of South Africa House and attempt to set fire to it.

11 (7.00): Mounted police

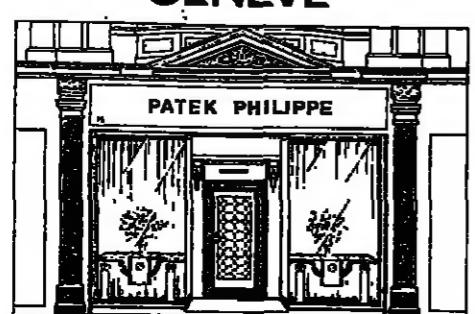


supported by police in riot gear clear Trafalgar Square driving lawless hordes along Charing Cross Road and St Martin's Lane. Plate glass windows of shops and banks are smashed, and diners showered with glass in restaurants. Shops are looted and cars overturned and set alight.

12 (8.00 onwards): Police in riot gear clear pockets of resistance as destruction and looting persist. Scuffles between police and rioters continue until 3am. Casualties



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# Looted shops and burnt out cars horrify tourists

By Harvey Elliott and Robin Young

LONDON'S image as a safe and pleasant city was damaged by the riots which caught thousands of innocent tourists unawares.

As telephone calls were made to homes from Tokyo to New York telling relatives of the horror that erupted on the quiet, sunny Saturday afternoon, news agencies were pouring out details of the devastation in "the fashionable West End" and, those tourists brave enough to venture back out on to the streets eagerly took photographs of burnt out cars and looted shops — pictures which would blacker Britain's name around the world.

Mr Harold Eaton, of St Louis, Missouri, summed up the general impression among innocents caught in the frenzy: "We are supposed to be the violent ones in the US. I am surprised that something like this could happen in what is such a civilized place."

It was not just the foreign visitors who were caught in the violence which exploded so suddenly. One terrified youth aged 17 described how he was pushed into a broken shop window by charging riot police.

The injured schoolboy, who was not a demonstrator but was visiting London to see a football match, had tried desperately to flee the scene as he saw crowds of protesters running towards him in Charing Cross Road.

Spencer Hockley, from Brighton, had come to the capital for the Millwall v Crystal Palace match and was on his way home when he got caught up in the melee.

"After the football match I walked to Charing Cross but it was closed, so I started to walk to Piccadilly station," he said. "But as I was walking along Charing Cross Road, I saw a load of people running towards me."

"They were smashing windows of shops and restaurants, but one hit me with a

most exclusive retailer — Burberry's, Mappin and Webb, Aquascutum, the Scotch House and the Dickens and Jones department store, Garrards, the royal jewellers, lay in the path of the vandalism but appeared to have escaped substantial damage.

"I fell through a plate glass window and went smashing into the shop. There was blood gushing from my hand and it just wouldn't stop."

The main trouble erupted just as shops were closing for the afternoon and tourists and visitors were strolling back towards their hotels to freshen up before an evening at a restaurant or theatre.

The windows of a showroom full of new cars were smashed and all the vehicles inside were severely damaged.

Mr Jim Lineen, sales manager, said the sight of the destruction hit him like a hammer blow. "I was physically ill." He estimated the damage to the showroom at about £120,000.

In the next street, a tailor's shop was used as a refuge by more than 60 frightened bystanders. "It was terrifying. We just had to stay in the shop with the door locked," Mr David Brooks, an eyewitness, said. "Our main object was to get the women and children inside."

Outside was the shop owner's car, smashed and burned.

"They got a lighter and a rag and threw it under the petrol tank," Mr Brooks said. He said he had seen people offering money to young men in a bar to persuade them to join the violence. "There was a group offering £20 to sign up," he said.

He was supported by Miss Anne Goodhind, aged 18, from Bath, an A level student who had been across her forehead. She said: "Police were going mad. When they charged towards me everyone ran back. I was grabbed by one and thrown to the floor."

"I curled up in a little ball

but one hit me with a

truncheon across the head and some kicked me."

"I usually stand up for the police; they are only human beings. But I heard some policeman say to protesters, 'Kick me, so I can hit you back.'

As reinforcements were

called in by police, men and women had to leave their normal duties to report to the central area.

One police officer said: "I

was having a good time at the boat race, then I get called out to this."

The ramifications of the riot

spread out to the countryside too. One village cancelled a poll tax demonstration sched-

uled for yesterday morning and replaced it with a service instead.

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Toyota in Cranbourne Street,

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Grand Buildings office block

at the Trafalgar Square end of

the Strand.

A coachload of French tour-



Tourists taking photographs and picking up debris as souvenirs yesterday after the night of violence that swept Trafalgar Square

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A coachload of French tour-

ists which had made a detour for a sightseeing cruise down St Martin's Lane, scene of some of the worst of Saturday evening's running battles, made a special stop for a photo opportunity at the Renault Covent Garden showrooms, where emergency boarding covered the damage rioters had caused to the cars.

"Gee, this is great," Mr Louis Zeiman from Phoenix, Arizona, said, pointing his camera on a ransacked branch of The Rack in Langham Place.

"I can tell the folks back home I came to Britain and saw a riot. We thought you simply didn't do that sort of thing."

Mr Zeiman said he and his wife had been intending to go to a theatre on Saturday night.

"What we saw in the streets was much more dramatic. We saved the price of the tickets, and no-one did us any harm," he said.

Miss Daisy Lu, from Hong Kong, was less delighted. "I do not like to see London such a mess," she said, as she watched shards of glass and

broken glass everywhere, and people screaming. We just left our burgers and ran."

A sharp sense of injustice was voiced by the owner of a restaurant in Cranbourne

Street. "This was supposed to be a protest against the community charge, but we are already in danger of being closed by the uniform business rate, which will multiply our bill seven times."

"I thought it was a dirty, unpleasant place before. Now it looks horrible and feels unsafe."

She was impressed, though, that scrap merchants had been round attaching handwritten notices to cars wrecked in the violence, giving telephone numbers and offering cash down.

"I suppose that shows some sort of enterprise", Miss Lu said.

Mr Graham Stooke, from Liverpool, said he had been with his family at a cafe in the Charing Cross Road. "Some one ran in and said the demonstration was coming up the street, and windows were being smashed."

Some shopkeepers said that they were hoping the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police District would not close the events as a riot, because if he did they would not be able to claim on their insurance policies but must wait to be refunded by the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police from public funds.

There seems no room for doubt, though, that the Receiver's decision will be that what Mr Zeiman witnessed really was a riot.

## AGENDA

### The week ahead

#### Today

One of the most contentious cross-party issues returns to the Commons with the second reading of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. MPs will be given a free vote on clauses to allow scientific experiments on embryos up to 14 days after fertilisation, and to cut the time limit on abortions from 28 to 24 weeks.

The MoD publishes its Defence Estimates white paper, likely to welcome changes in Eastern Europe but underline the importance of keeping up Britain's guard. The building of Portsmouth Cathedral resumes 50 years after it was interrupted by the Second World War.

**Tomorrow**

As the anti-poll tax lobby descends on Parliament, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to announce that he will charge up to 20 local authorities; Tory councils are unlikely to feature. President Venkataraman of India begins a state visit. The War Widows Association is in London for its AGM.

#### Wednesday

Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative party chairman, launches the Tory campaign to win over the voters in next month's local government elections. With the examination season looming, a one-day strike takes members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers out of the classroom. Female high-fliers head for the Institute of Directors for the Businesswoman of the Year award.

#### Thursday

The parliamentary term ends at Westminster and MPs retire until April 18. The Greens converge on Northampton for their spring conference.

Memorabilia of the Russian royal family is up for auction at Sotheby's, with documents relating to the execution of the last tsar expected to fetch about £500,000.

#### Friday

Monmouth Tories decide whether to deselect their MP, Sir John Stradling Thomas. The conference season is now well under way. Ireland's governing Fianna Fail meets in Dublin. Members of the Secondary Heads Association spend their school holidays in Manchester, while writers, aspiring or published, meet at Southampton University.

#### Saturday

Dr Marcella Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt address a public meeting in Middlesbrough on working practices in their profession. More than 100 vehicles set off from Marble Arch on the 9,000-mile London to Peking motor challenge: the initial stages through London's traffic will probably be the most demanding section. At Aintree there should be a rather quicker start to the Grand National.

## Scuffles mark minister's tour of devastated area

By Quentin Cowdrey, Home Affairs Correspondent

MR David Waddington, the Home Secretary, yesterday blamed the London riot on the "incredible wickedness" of a relatively small number of demonstrators who had set out to cause trouble.

Mr Waddington almost became involved in ugly scuffles with protesters as he delivered his verdict during a visit to some of the worst scenes of disorder. Three men were arrested for alleged public order offences.

A group of youngsters began chanting anti-poll tax slogans as soon as Mr Waddington's Jaguar car pulled up outside the wrecked car showroom in St Martin's Lane near Leicester Square.

Tension rose as Mr Waddington, surrounded by a surprisingly small number of police and a scrum of journalists and television crews,

## 52 arrests near Tory conference

MORE than 50 people are to appear before magistrates in Cheltenham in the wake of Saturday's mob violence in the regency town.

Five police officers were hurt, although not seriously, in the trouble after the conclusion of the Conservative Central Council conference.

The Prime Minister had left the town when a group of about 200 people, mostly in their teens or early twenties, broke away from a rally by the Gloucestershire Anti Poll Tax Federation in a park about a mile away and converged on the conference centre at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Police were pelted with stones and cans as they struggled to prevent the mob from breaching the security screen round the town hall. A door was torn off a police van.

Fifty-two people were arrested for assaults on police and public order offences and taken to police stations in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. They were later released on bail to appear in court in May and June.

Inspector Michael Pennington said: "The official poll tax march and rally went off peacefully and we accept the organisers had no idea this was in store. We found lager cans and beer bottles in the gutters so you can draw your own conclusions."

The breakaway group was drawn by local Anti Poll Tax Federation leaders, who said 5,000 people took part in the march and rally.

## How disorder has hardened over the years

By George Hill



Flashback to 1981: Police bearing the brunt of an attack in Liverpool, one of several cities hit by riots that year

Leges. It was only seldom that clashes became as fierce as the Southall demonstration against the National Front in 1979, when Mr Blair Peach, the teacher, died of head injuries during a charge by riot police.

The industrial disputes of the 1970s helped to create a precedent for civil disorder as a means of bringing more direct political pressure. In the coal strike of 1972, the National Union of Mineworkers' flying pickets stopped the flow of coal from the Saltley depot, ignoring the law, and forcing the Government into a partial victory.

In the 1960s and 1970s political extremists began to see how the herd instinct involved could be manipulated as a source of power in enclosed institutions like col-

leges. It was only seldom that clashes became as fierce as the Southall demonstration against the National Front in 1979, when Mr Blair Peach, the teacher, died of head injuries during a charge by riot police.

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As Mr Michael Heseltine, MP, said, "it took a riot" to draw national attention to the problems of the areas concerned. There were no more disturbances on a comparable scale in the inner cities until 1985, when recurrent outbreaks in Brixton were followed by the most violent clash of this kind to date, on the Broadwater Farm estate, Tottenham, in London. A policeman was murdered and

243 were injured. It was the first British city riot in which firearms are known to have been used.

The police said later that car parks in the estate had been flooded with petrol, apparently to trap them if they advanced. The riot led to a reappraisal of the night's tactics, in which officers had stood in defensive line behind their shields, while the rioters threw fire-bombs.

It was at the same period that industrial violence was reaching a climax. In the coal strike of 1984-5, the battles at the gates of collieries and coal depots were among the most serious episodes of civil disorder in Britain this century.

At the Orgreave coke store in Brixton, 149 police were followed by the most violent clash of this kind to date, on the Broadwater Farm estate, Tottenham, in London. A policeman was murdered and

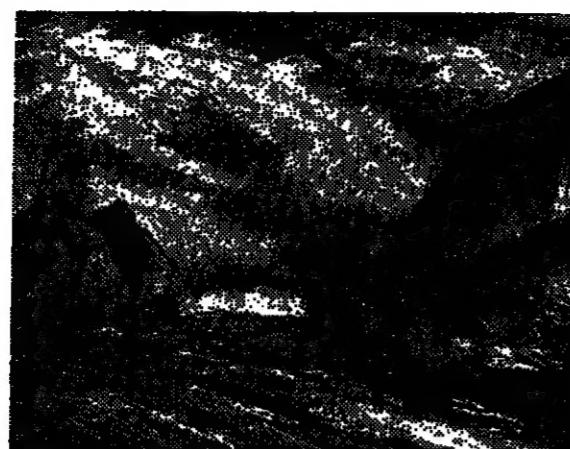
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# Phillips announce their next sale of Impressionist and Modern paintings, drawings, watercolours and sculpture.

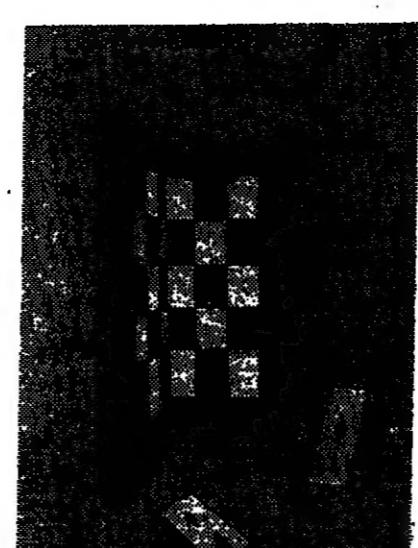
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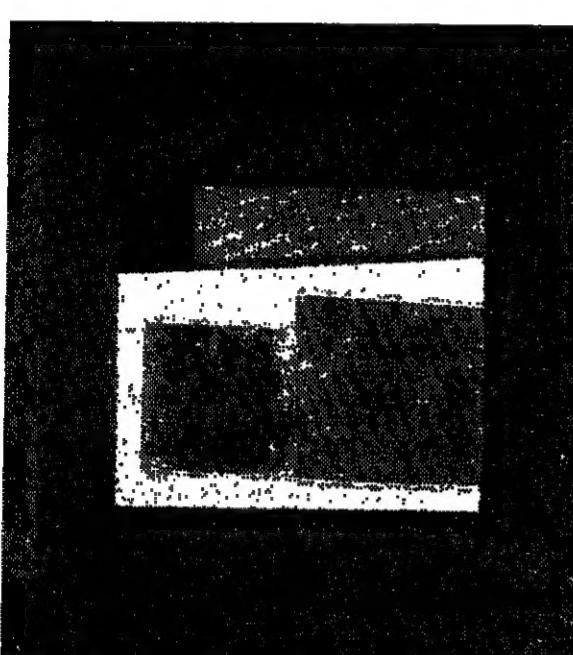
BERNARD BUFFET  
Jeu de Cartes  
£90,000-£120,000



GEORGES ROUAULT  
Paysage Biblique  
£180,000-£220,000



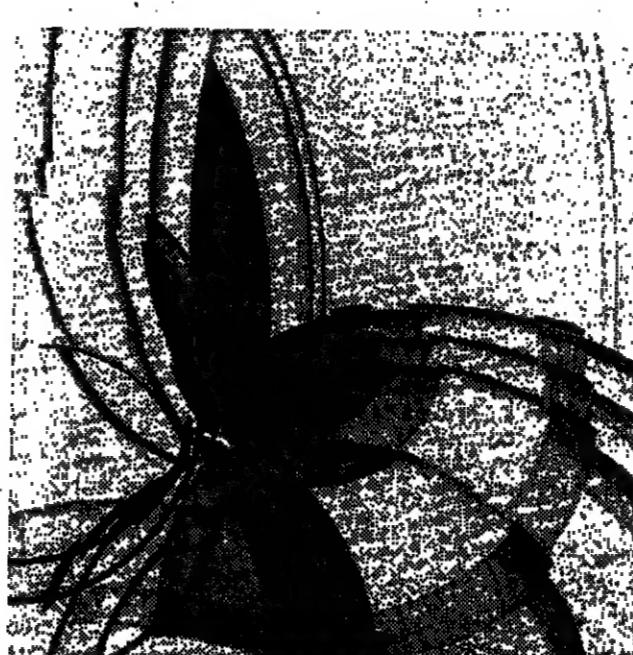
AUGUSTE RODIN  
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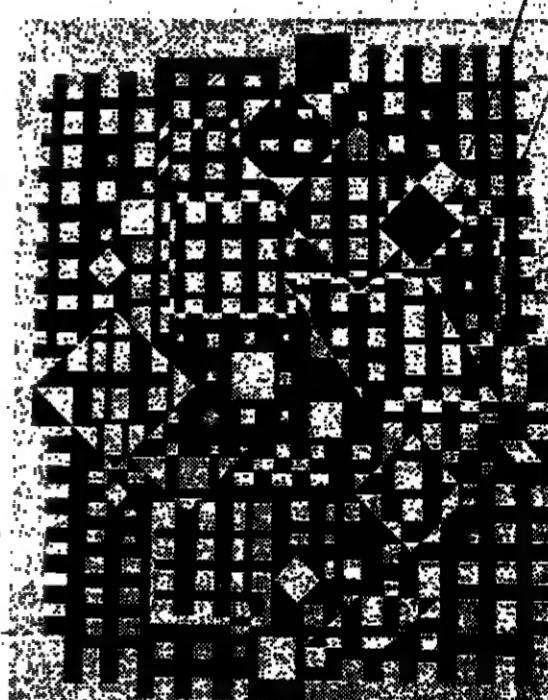
BEN NICHOLSON  
Decor for ballet. Mixed media and collage on board  
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ANDY WARHOL  
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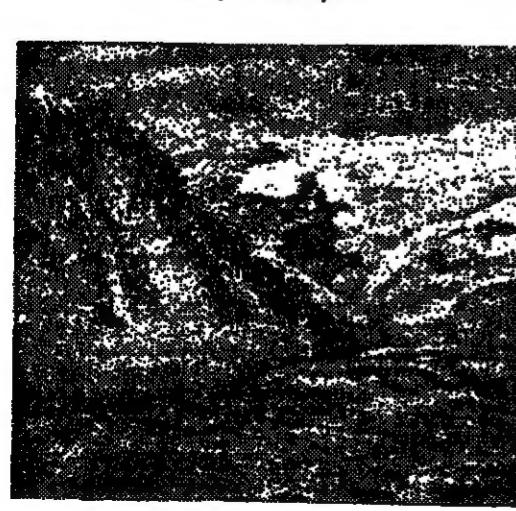
SALVADOR DALÍ  
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Jeune Fille au Collier de Perles,  
Une Fleur dans les Cheveux  
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CAMILLE PISSARRO  
Deux paysannes causant. Watercolour and pencil  
£40,000-£45,000



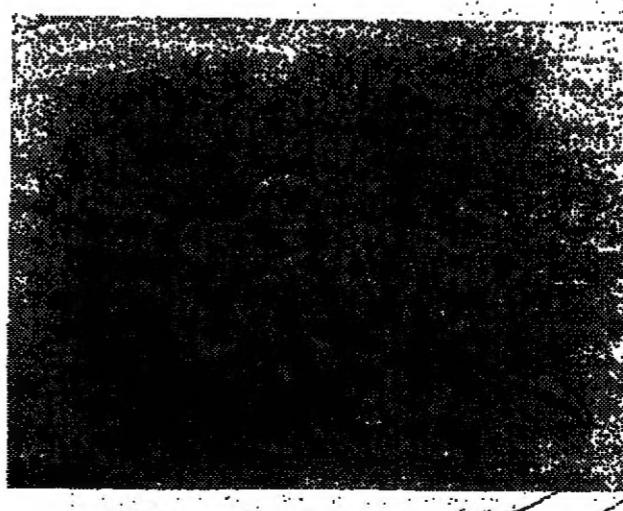
PIERRE BONNARD  
L'effet de neige près de Chambéry  
£40,000-£60,000



PAUL GAUGUIN  
Femme nue debout. Bronze  
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# Mackay is ready to outlaw race bias by solicitors

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is expected to agree to an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill which would outlaw racial discrimination against barristers by solicitors.

The Bar has been pressing for such discrimination — which can operate when solicitors allocate briefs — to be banned by law. At present it is covered by professional rules and as such dealt with as a disciplinary offence.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, the Bar chairman, says that black barristers are subject to racial discrimination from outside and inside the Bar.

“As a rule, white firms of solicitors do not send work to them, however well-equipped they may be to understand and serve the interests of the firm’s clients.”

The record of government institutions, such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office (in immigration cases) and the Customs and Excise for drugs prosecutions is also patchy, he says.

“Unequal opportunity at the start becomes more unequal if barristers do not

receive work they are qualified to do because of the colour of their skin.”

The move comes at a time of a growing number of initiatives to stamp out racial discrimination in the legal profession.

Today the Society of Black Lawyers calls on the Government to put forward a “anti-racist strategy to eliminate discrimination from the criminal justice system”.

In its response to the recent Home Office White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, the 400-member society points out the huge disproportion in the percentage of blacks in custody.

Black prisoners represent a “staggering 20 per cent of the total prison population and only 4.4 per cent of the general population,” it says.

Mr Peter Herbert, an executive member of the society, said: “In the general population black people are eight times as likely to be imprisoned as their white counterparts and 40 times as likely to be the subject of a racial attack.”

But the White Paper “totally fails to deal with this fact

when discussing the issue of how to protect the public against crime”, he said.

Black men represent 15.7 per cent of the male prison population and black women 24 per cent of the female prison population.

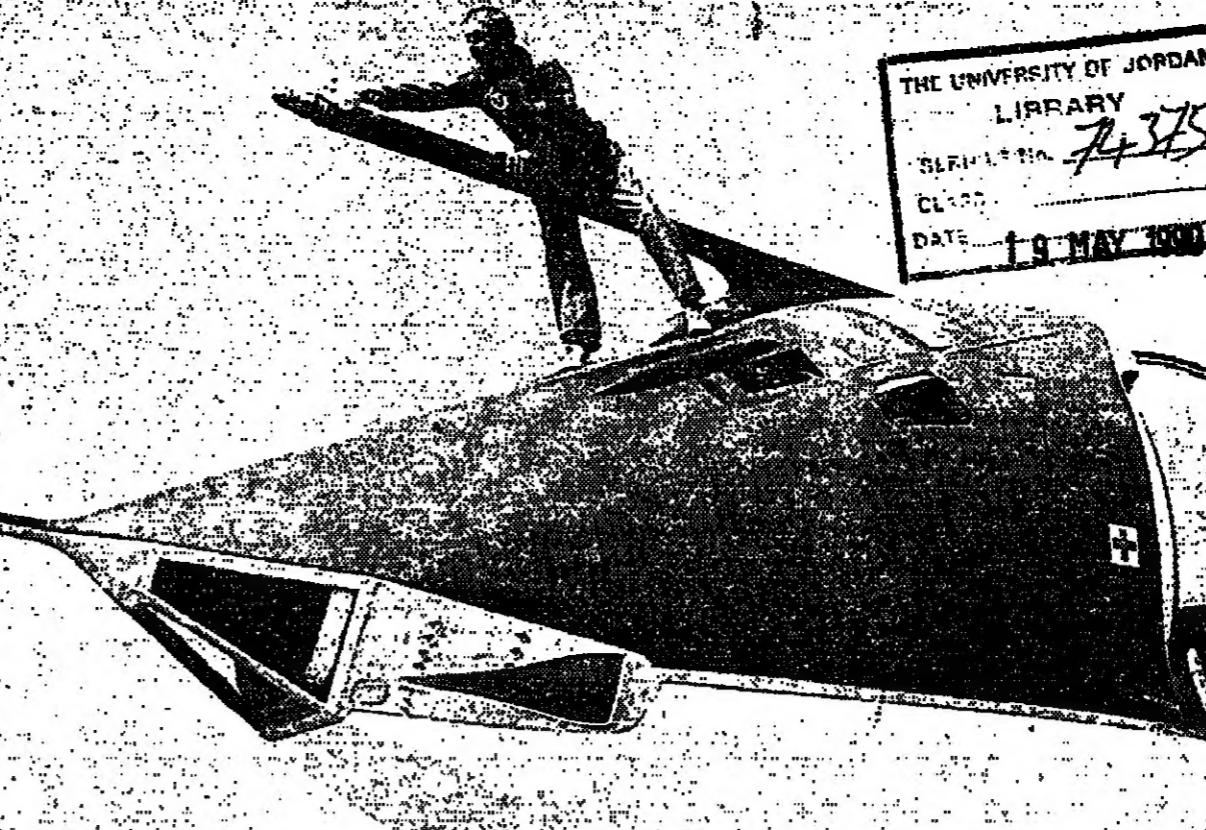
The figures have been steadily rising since 1985 when monitoring started, the society says. “Less than half the remains result in custody, and black defendants are twice as likely to be acquitted as their white counterparts.”

It adds: “It is quite extraordinary that at a time when the black prison population is rising, there is no priority given to the elimination of racism from the criminal justice system.”

Calling on the Government to take action to stamp out discrimination, the society says there must be full ethnic monitoring of the sentencing and bail process.

It also wants moves to include blacks in the training of the judiciary. The Judicial Studies Board, which supervises judicial training, contains “not a single black academic on its main board or four sub-committees”, it says.

# Restored V-bomber takes limelight



STANDING at the “rhino’s pinnacle” of four years’ restoration work, Mr Trevor Fish yesterday gave the refuelling probe of this Victor bomber a final polish.

The aircraft was wheeled into the sunshine at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, in Cambridgeshire, to display the hard work done by a dozen volunteers to return it to pristine condition (Harvey Elliott writes).

● The first Boeing 747 “jumbo” jet, made more than 21 years ago, is to be turned into a museum piece at the

Boeing headquarters, Seattle. Almost 800 747s have been produced and the latest version — the 400 series — although almost identical from the outside, is a completely different aircraft in the cabin and on the flight deck.

● Royal Air Force flights used by thousands of service families each year to travel to and from foreign postings are to be revamped to bring them into line with the service on offer on commercial airlines. Passengers will be asked to complete a questionnaire to find out what they expect from their flights.

# One in five prisoners is a fine defaulter

By Quentin Cowdry  
Home Affairs Correspondent

ONE fifth of prison sentences are imposed for fine defaulting, a report published today says. It backs government plans to introduce means-related fines for many offences.

In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, 16,817 defaulters were jailed, including 4,828 people originally charged with motoring offences and 811 offenders convicted of drunkenness, the report by the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders says.

The association accepts that most sentences for fine defaulting are short and that defaulters represented just 1.5 per cent of the average jail population in 1988.

“Even a small proportion of defaulters can pose serious problems for a hard-pressed prison system. The work caused by over 16,000 receptions of each offender is substantial, regardless of the prisoner’s length of stay.”

The association favours the introduction of a “unit fine” system under which fines would be calculated by multiplying a number of units representing the gravity of the offence by the weekly disposable income of the offender.

## Training councils ‘need more funds’

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

AS it prepares this week to launch the first of 82 local employer-led Training Enterprise Councils, the Government is today warned that the initiative, seen as vital to Britain’s competitive future, must receive more funding if it is to succeed.

The Employment Institute, in a report planned to coincide with the launch, claims that without more funding many of the councils will flounder. “And one can be sure that the blame will be laid squarely at their door, rather than that of their short-sighted and penny-pinching pay masters in Central Government.”

The report echoes the doubts expressed last week by Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, who claimed the councils could be “ruined at birth” because of cuts in budgets and infighting between Government departments.

He said: “We are witnessing infighting in Whitehall between the departments of employment and of trade and industry and the myopia of the Treasury, which is more concerned, it seems, with reducing public expenditure than in securing the nation’s international competitive future.”

Last week, it emerged that cuts of up to 22 per cent would be made to provide use of youth training, for which the councils would become responsible. In addition, the councils’ budget, originally estimated at £3 billion, has been reduced to an estimated £2.4 billion.

The Employment Institute claims there must be substantial additional funding of public training programmes, in particular, a more than doubling of grants to Employment Training managers to reverse planned expenditure cuts.

● A High Court decision ordering a former employee of Electronic Data Systems to pay back £4,500 towards the cost of his training will help to dissuade companies from poaching well-trained staff, *Personnel Management Magazine* says.

## Equity criticized over £4.5m fund

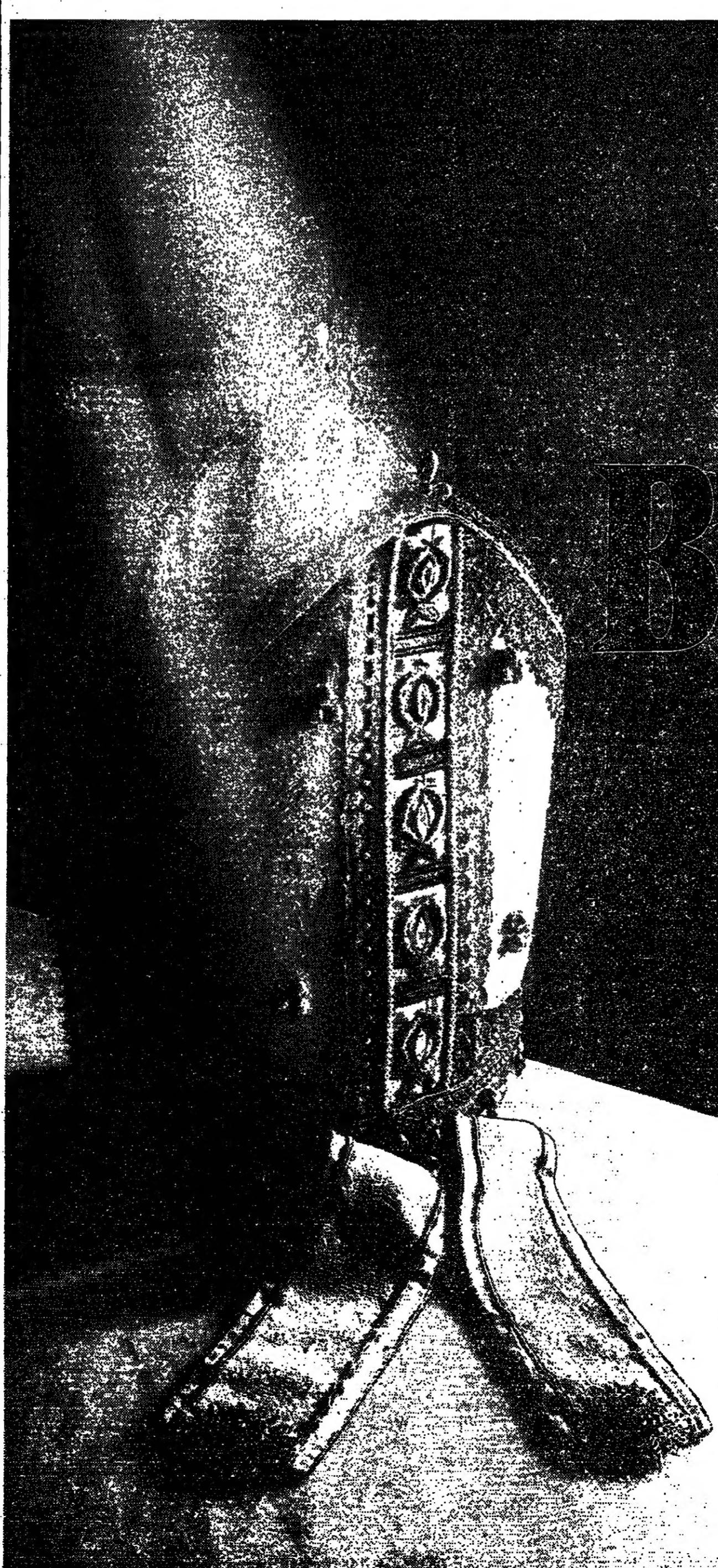
By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

EQUITY, the actors’ union, which last week announced a £4.5 million welfare trust fund, has been criticized by a member of its council over the “undemocratic” decision.

The fund comes from money wrested by the BBC on behalf of itself and the independent television companies six years ago from European cable television outfits which have taken programmes off screen without paying any copyright or royalty fees; the companies, in Belgium, The Netherlands and Denmark, have been persuaded to pay annual contributions.

Of that money, Equity negotiated what has accumulated to £4.5 million representing fees accruing to members.

The members, who earned this money, have a right to be consulted on what should happen to it, but they were not and it was undemocratic,” Mr



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But we need the support of everyone who believes in our cause.

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Or simply send a donation to the Rev. C. Milford at the Movement for the Ordination of Women.

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MOVEMENT FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

# Plymouth awaits the spectacle of trireme contests

By George Hill

THOSE flimsy rowing eights which thrashed up the tideway between Putney and Mortlake at the weekend were no more than an appetizer for a contest really worth watching.

The Oxford and Cambridge event represented only a residual and attenuated version of the art of competitive rowing, which reached its height in the Aegean 2,500 years ago in that never-to-be-forgotten clash between the Athenians (or Dark Blues) and the Persians (Light Blues) over the old course at Salamis.

Last Friday, the Crown Estate Commissioners announced that the Trireme Trust had won the lease on Drake's Island, a rocky outcrop and historic landmark in Plymouth Sound, to develop the site for the building and operation of two full-sized triremes.

The Crown Estate, seeking "an imaginative and sympathetic new use" for the 6.5-acre island, chose the Trireme Trust's plans over a proposal to provide a holiday centre for children with life-shortening diseases. Now the pros-

pect opens up for the first time in many centuries of contests between bronze-prowed triremes forging along at nearly 10 knots, each with 170 rowers labouring at the oars. The 120ft ships will be near-sisters of the British-designed *Olympias*, built in Greece in 1987.

Powered by the muscle of hundreds of volunteers ready to pay for the cost of being galley-slaves, they are expected to have such a turn of speed that they could tow water-skiers behind them.

The next step for the promoters of the project will be to search for sponsors to collaborate in the £1.2 million plan, which will include a double slipway and boathouses for the two planned £200,000 sparing-partners, as well as an historical exhibition and accommodation for up to 350 trainee rowers. The centre could be working by 1993.

The city of Plymouth is well-disposed, though its officials sound faintly bemused by the exotic project. However, one Plymouth resident, Mr Colin May, wrote last week to our letters column to deplore the prospect of "these unwieldy monsters" manoeuvring in the crowded waters of Plymouth



Sound. He feared that the development might "despoil" the island, with its listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

The island, of which Sir Francis Drake was made governor in 1583, was used for defence purposes from the end of the 17th century to 1956. It has buildings dating from that period, including a barrack block, gun emplacements and an *oubliette* prison. The Crown Estate said English Heritage would be fully consulted over architectural conservations and additions.

Yachtmens who know Plymouth, with its swift currents, mudflats and regular majestic pas-

sage of warships and cross-channel ferries, may wonder how much at home triremes will be there. The ancient Greeks did not have to contend with Channel tides, let alone with nuclear submarines.

A trireme was a highly refined fighting machine, designed for efficiency as tightly as any rowing eight. The area of its hull in the water is smaller for each oarsman than it is even in a modern racing shell. But all-weather capacity was sacrificed for speed.

"Last time we were out in the open sea the waves were three feet high, and standing on deck you could see the hull flexing quite perceptibly," says Mr Owain Roberts, of Anglesey, who has been sailing master of the *Olympias*.

Triremes have probably negotiated Plymouth's tides before. Four hundred years after the battle of Salamis, the Romans had a naval base at Mount Batten, and its firepower is likely to have included vessels of similar type.

In the 19th century, a breakwater was built across the sound, and that created an area of sheltered water about two miles square, in addition to the estuaries of the rivers Tamar

and Plym. But at a weekend it can be a busy patch of water.

Mr Neil McShane is managing director of Trireme Enterprises Ltd, the company which has spun off from the trust to manage the operation. "We have worked in close liaison with the Queen's harbourmaster and the City of Plymouth harbourmaster," he says. "We are very confident that we can coordinate our operations in relation with the movements of large ships. The triremes are highly manoeuvrable, and as a last resort each ship will always have a powerful safety boat near by."

He insists that he has no worries on filling the more than 3,000 crew places each season. "You mustn't talk about this in terms of galley slaves, Charlton Heston, and the timekeeper beating out the rhythm on a drum. This is a fun activity, and we fully anticipate large numbers of people who have never rowed in their lives before getting enormous pleasure out of it."

The joint begetters of the modern trireme answer the question with a secure serenity. They are Mr John Coates, former head of warship design for the Ministry of

## Commons questions on 'clean energy'

By Nick Nutall  
Technology Correspondent

MR Peter Morrison, the Minister of State for Energy, will be urged today to explain the Government's policy on "clean" energy schemes to the Commons in a series of questions tabled by Mr Tony Speller, chairman of the All-Party Alternative Energy Group and Conservative MP for North Devon.

The move follows an agreement with the European Commission which, it is claimed, halted many such projects.

Under the Government's Non Fossil Fuel Obligation 300 groups have submitted plans to generate electricity from wind, water and waste-into-power schemes.

It had been hoped that the Obligation, paid for by a levy on the electricity consumer, would help lay the foundations of a non-polluting energy industry at a time of increasing concern about the environment.

However, under the new agreement financial support for such projects is to be limited to eight years rather than the 15 years needed to make them viable.

Mr Speller said the future for clean energy in Britain could be bleak.

### NHS pay fear

Pay awards made by retailers such as Tesco and Marks & Spencer will rob the National Health Service of many ancillary workers, the Confederation of Health Service Employees has said. Its survey has found that 75 per cent of its NHS members had considered leaving in the last year.

### Police siege

Armed police surrounded a house in Hampshire early yesterday where two gunmen were believed to be hiding. A special police negotiator was trying to talk the two out of the village home in Shawford, near Winchester. Police want to talk to the men about a series of armed robberies.

### Murder charge

A man aged 42 from the Easton area of Bristol will appear in court in Bristol tomorrow charged with murdering Clive Tully, aged 24, of Auckland, New Zealand. Mr Tully's body was found at the weekend, 10 days after being found in a bag near Newport, Gwent.

### Time capsule

A Victorian country house, preserved as a "time capsule" with its interior, contents and gardens unchanged since the 1860s, has been acquired by English Heritage. Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, will undergo repairs costing £2.6 million.

### Missile alert

A bomb disposal team is examining a 4ft missile found in the sea off the Gower peninsula in South Wales. The missile, which had white fluid oozing from its casing, was discovered by a man walking on Whiteford beach. He alerted Swansea coastguards.

### Chess draw

The two top British players in the international junior chess tournament at Oakham School, Rutland, Michael Adams, of Truro, and David Norwood, the Bolton grandmaster, drew their fourth-round game. With 3½ points each, they share the lead with two Soviet competitors.

### Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bond draw are: £100,000 number 16 BK 289886 (winner lives in Derbyshire); £50,000 25 DB 394410 (Bristol); £25,000 35 TL 912600 (Bristol).

## Battle over history syllabus set to continue

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE battle over Britain's history will continue after the long-awaited National Curriculum working party report is published later this week, with the Prime Minister still apparently insisting that there should be greater emphasis on the learning of facts.

Politicians and historians are already lining up to take sides on the recommendations which were sent to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the beginning of the year.

Publication was delayed for several weeks while Mrs Margaret Thatcher considered the report.

Mr MacGregor was unhappy with many aspects of the working party's interim report published last year and asked for several changes. As a result, British history is now expected to take up half of the teaching time, compared with 40 per cent as originally recommended.

It is understood, however, that Mrs Thatcher is still unhappy with the working party's failure to give sufficient importance to the learning of facts, and Mr MacGregor is likely to ask for further changes to be made during the consultation stage.

The working party has included a compulsory course in British history for pupils aged 14 to 16, and all courses will now have to be supported by a list of facts considered essential in covering the four aspects of history — politics, economics, social and religious factors.

The final report includes European and world history between 1929 and 1945, including the rise of Hitler from 1933, which was originally omitted. A course on Ancient Greece has been dropped and one on the British Empire in Africa 1880-1905 has been introduced for children aged 14 to 16. In a clear bias towards a British view of history, there will be little on black leaders or the rise of African nationalism.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front-bench education spokesman, has written to history professors and teachers accusing the Prime Minister of trying to make the history curriculum "much more a vehicle for indoctrination than for education".

He says that the demand for more facts goes "to the heart of the nature of history itself, whether there is a single truth

Education, page 16

Letters, page 13

## Glory of the Downs gives way to the plough

ALAN WELLER



Mr Belden surveys ploughed-up grassland now planted with corn. The thin top soil has been torn up, leaving the grey-white chalk exposed

By Michael Hornsby  
Agriculture Correspondent

MR Phil Belden, the South Downs conservation officer of West Sussex County Council, sometimes believes he is fighting a losing battle as he watches one of England's last remaining areas of chalk grassland disappearing under the plough.

It is precisely the poor quality of the soil that makes it so rich in wild flowers, as no one species can predominate: "You can find up to 40 different plants in a square metre of

turf, each with its associated insect," Mr Belden says.

Since 1987, the entire 80-mile stretch of the South Downs, from Beachy Head in the east to Winchester in the west, has been designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area. Farmers receive £14 an acre for grazing at agreed levels without using fertilizers or pesticides, and £65 an acre if they revert to grassland.

However, the impact of the scheme has been limited. Roughly half the 300 farmers and landowners on the

Downs are receiving payments under the scheme, but only about 12 per cent of the 150,000 acres within the designated area are covered by conservation agreements.

The system's weakness lies in its voluntary nature, Mr Belden says: "We suspect many farmers plan to plough up reverted grassland when the five-year term of their agreements expires in 1991. It is vital that the scheme be extended well beyond that date."

His fears were echoed in a report

presented last month to the council's coast and countryside committee, which noted: "Sadly, the battle to conserve fully the natural beauty of the Sussex Downs shows no signs of being won. As Environmentally Sensitive Areas agreements are signed, so other downland is ploughed."

The council is particularly concerned at the ploughing up this year of a vast field of more than 100 acres east of Chanty Post, through which the South Downs Way, England's only long-distance bridleway, passes.

## Future of BAOR reviewed

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

MERGING elements of the British Army of the Rhine into multinational forces in Europe is seen in the Ministry of Defence as one of the most attractive options for the future, according to sources.

Senior policy staff in the ministry who are examining options to change the shape of Britain's armed services in the light of the diminished threat from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, think that mixed forces "get across the message of a genuine alliance".

The suggested change for the BAOR is unlikely to be discussed in detail in the Government's defence White Paper, which is being published today. Although it will contain a lengthy essay on the political changes in Eastern Europe and possible implications for Britain's defence strategy, the options now under examination will not be listed.

While there is uncertainty and instability, the Government is determined to keep secret its ideas for Britain's future defence requirements.

Whitehall sources said the Government had a problem of presentation with this year's White Paper, as it needed to convince the public that it was in the business of making changes "at the right time and in the right way".

Ministers also wanted to reassure men and women in the services that they had a future in the Forces.

## Demands by health groups

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE Government will come under further pressure today to modify its health service reforms after demands from 14 health bodies for guarantees to protect patients.

The organizations, which include the Health Visitors' Association, the Association of British Paediatric Nurses, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the Community Psychiatric Nurses Association and the health service unions NUPE and Cohse, are calling for guaranteed growth in funding to cover new patterns of diseases such as Aids, the growing number of elderly people and medical advances.

It points to the absence of

strong safeguards to maintain high standards of care and improve quality in the new market-oriented NHS, the lack of support for the schemes among professional NHS staff and the public and the speed of the reform, which it says would undermine staff morale.

The statement urges the Government to set up a fully evaluated quality assurance system, adequate funding and development of professional and vocational training, sufficient numbers of qualified professional and trained support staff and the retention of existing national staff grading and careers structures.

### Conservative Council Conference

## Party faithful keep doubts to themselves

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

ON the evidence of the Conservative Council Conference at Cheltenham, the Conservative Party in the country is far more solid, in the face of the difficulties facing the Government, than the party at Westminster.

A constituency association chairman barked "marvellous" when asked about the grassroots mood. "Marvellous?" "Yes, absolutely marvellous," he declared, and marched off.

The central council, where constituency chairmen, agents or other senior local figures predominate, tends to be the most faithful of the party faithful. Many believe that the leadership furore is the creation of the media.

However, the Cheltenham representatives said enough from the conference platform and in private to suggest that they were worried about in-

creasing rates and the community charge.

What had angered them was the way their Westminster colleagues had allowed concern over those issues to carry dangerous into a debate on the leadership.

The Welsh representative who declared on Friday that he would "go through fire" for Margaret Thatcher but not a yard for some of the "flashy pretenders" to her throne was cheered to the rafters.

Away from the conference floor, Mr Ronald Clements, of Leicester South, told me: "There is no alternative in sight to the present leadership. We are in an era when conviction is being portrayed as dogma, resolution as intransigence, and determination as self-will."

Mr Thatcher's speech was warmly received. Her subtle reminders, in a rousing finale,

that she would result in a dogfight that would put the Tories out of office.

Conservatives were warned by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, that they would not win the next general election by focusing on the record of the last Labour government (Andrew Pierce writes).

In a speech during Saturday's debate on the environment, Mr Patten said: "We will not win the 1990s by talking about the 1970s. We must have a clear and convincing message."

"Talk to those young voters about Mr Healey and the International Monetary Fund and you might as well be talking about the War of the Roses."

Mr Patten predicted that the environment would form the core of the manifesto on which the Conservatives would win — and deserved to win — the next general election.

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday hailed the Prime Minister's declaration to stay in office as "music to my ears".

He was speaking as it appeared that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's promise at Cheltenham on Saturday that she had the stomach for the fight ahead had quailed, at least temporarily, the feverish speculation about the Conservative Party leadership.

Mr Tebbit, whose own announcement of his readiness to stand if Mrs Thatcher stepped down before the next election had overshadowed the meeting of the Conservative Central Council, suggested that his generation, including Mr Douglas Hurd and Mr Michael Heseltine, might be ruled out by age as likely future leaders of the party. However, he claimed that his intervention had defused some of the speculation about his retirement.

He won a warm ovation for a speech in which he said there was no vacancy for her job, and then reminded his audience of the values she had defended since she became

party leader in 1975. Senior Conservatives believe, however, that the leadership issue is unlikely to go away until after the May local elections.

Mr Tebbit, in an interview with David Frost on TV-am, named ministers such as Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, as the more likely eventual contenders to succeed Mrs Thatcher. He also singled out a favourite of the right, Mr Michael Portillo, the junior transport minister, as a possible runner.

Mr Tebbit accepted that there was no strong Thatcherite candidate challenging for the succession. He said he did not think Mr Heselt

common  
questions  
on 'clean  
energy'

By Nick Nairn  
Editorial Comment  
Peter Morrison  
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# IN LINE WITH INFLATION, A FIRST CLASS STAMP SHOULD NOW COST:



THIS MUCH?



THIS MUCH?



OR THIS MUCH?

And the correct answer is...?

23p.

Over the last ten years the real cost of a first class stamp has fallen below inflation.

All it costs today to send a letter within Britain or from Britain to anywhere else in the European Community is 20p.

How have we kept our prices below inflation?

We've been working on our productivity: over the past five years it's improved by +15% (about twice the UK average).

We now handle 54 million letters a day.

Every year our loads are getting heavier.

We don't want to add to yours if we don't have to.



Royal Mail

# ANC and de Klerk try to salvage reform process

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE South African Government and the African National Congress will convene separate, top-level meetings this week in an attempt to salvage the political reform process threatened with collapse by widespread violence in black communities.

The crisis arose at the weekend when the ANC called off preliminary negotiations with the Government scheduled for April 11, and abandoned plans for a joint peace rally with the rival Inkatha movement in Natal townships which are riven by fighting between their respective supporters.

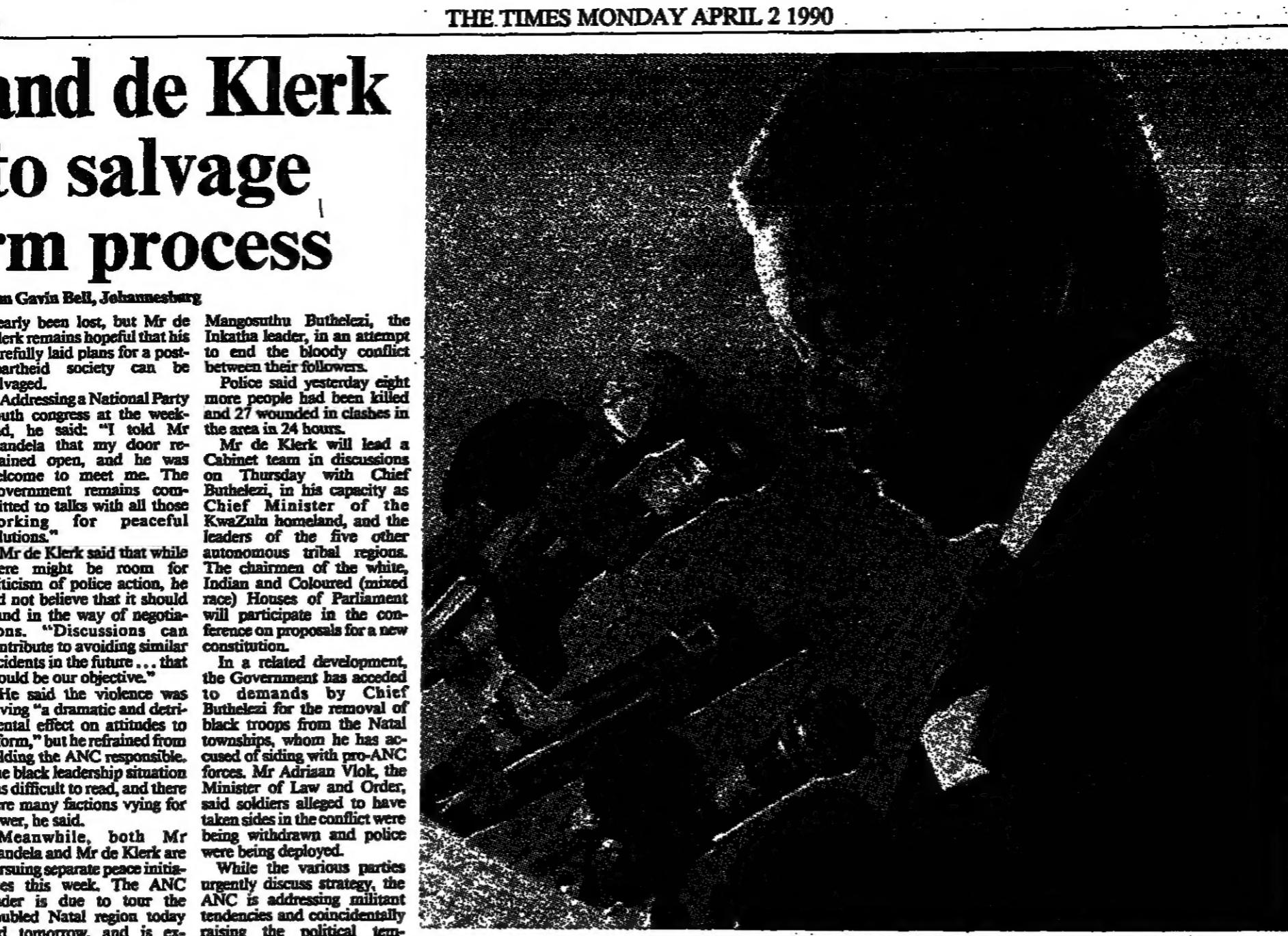
Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's vice-president, cited a clash between black demonstrators and riot police in Soweto township, south of Johannesburg, last week as the reason for postponing the talks with Pretoria: "If the Government talks about negotiations on the one hand and murders our people on the other, that we cannot accept."

At least 11 people were killed, and several hundreds injured, when police opened fire on a huge crowd of township dwellers protesting against high rents and racially segregated councils. The incident is being compared by black nationalists with the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, when 69 people were killed.

However, analysts believe the ANC move was a reaction to growing militancy in the townships, and within its own ranks, which is threatening to undermine its authority for negotiating a political settlement with the Government.

Hardliners are apparently warning the ANC leadership that it is in danger of losing the support of impatient youths to more radical organizations, such as the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which opposes any form of dialogue with Pretoria.

The ANC said it will review the suspension of the talks at an extraordinary meeting of its National Executive Committee in Lusaka this week, and President de Klerk has called a two-day Cabinet meeting at a secret location to assess the situation. The momentum for negotiations has



Mr Mandela, the ANC leader, addressing a mass meeting of his followers in Bisho, capital of Ciskei homeland

## Mandela's authority over followers falters

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

WHEN Mr Nelson Mandela was released from prison five weeks ago, the masses hailed him as a saviour, even though he made it clear that he had no magic formula to end the iniquities of apartheid.

In Edendale and Imbali, Natal communities supposedly under the sway of the ANC, its flag is conspicuously absent. Township dwellers wearing T-shirts bearing Mr Mandela's portrait are beaten by militant youths who believe he has reneged on the black nationalist struggle by negotiating with the Government.

Cracks are appearing in the vast constituency which the ANC has traditionally claimed, and the mood is ugly and rebellious. The fissures are spreading to the ANC leadership, in danger of being outlasted by militant tendencies in the townships and undermined by similar factions within its own ranks.

The violence is attributed to a lost generation of youths, whose crude political views were forged by similar strife in the mid-1980s. Their allegiance to the mainstream of the ANC is doubtful, and the slogan "liberation before education" is gaining popularity.

Mr Robert Schrire, a political scientist at the University of Cape Town, says the influential role of black nationalist organizations in

the 1984-85 unrest is now lacking, and suggests that rioting sparked by anger and frustration at social and economic deprivation is slipping out of their control.

Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, an executive of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the main ANC surrogate, denies the strife has been orchestrated at national level, and says it is a case of local leaders taking advantage of the liberalized political climate to convey grievances to the authorities.

Remarkably, General Herman Stadler, the former chief of the security police, agrees. He attributes the strife to a variety of factors such as socio-economic deprivation, "freedom euphoria", conflict between ANC moderates and militants and common criminals exploiting the volatile situation.

He believes the influence of Mr Mandela and other ANC leaders has been eroded by their calls for peace, and that they will lose further support if they renounce the "armed struggle".

Certainly both Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi seem to have failed the test of leadership presented by the conflict in Natal, where their peace overtures have generated more heat than light.

Last week *Business Day*, a respected English-language daily, summed up their dilemma: "If black leaders do not want the country to be ungovernable ... they will have to establish their authority over the violent communities they claim to represent."

On the other side of the racial divide, the ANC's apparent inability or unwillingness to control the violence is creating alarm and despondency. Mr John Hutchinson, a property broker of liberal views, says: "The day they released Mandela I went out and celebrated. I really thought we were going to get rid of racism and work together for a sane society. Now I don't know what to think. It's all very worrying."

Since his release he has called repeatedly on black pupils to end a nationwide school boycott, and emphasized the importance of an educated population in creating a post-apartheid society. The day after he launched his appeal at a mass rally near Soweto, thousands of black teachers quit their classes and now more than 70,000 pupils are on the streets.

Last month, Mr Mandela instructed his supporters in Natal townships to throw their weapons into the sea. One week later, the area was in flames as they clashed with members of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha movement in the most widespread fighting so far in a conflict which has claimed more than 1,000 lives in two years.

In a misguided attempt to halt the carnage, Mr Mandela infuriated his followers in Natal by agreeing to address a joint rally for peace with Chief Buthelezi — in an Inkatha stronghold. The event was called off after a delegation led



Chief Buthelezi: Plan for rally with Mr Mandela

## Paratroops flown to Chad clash

Paris

A detachment of 147 *Berets Rouges*, crack paratroopers stationed at Carcassonne, south-west France, were flown to the Chad capital, N'Djamena, at the weekend after fierce border clashes between Chad troops and rebels (Alan Tiller writes).

The insurgents crossed over from the Sudanese region of Darfur and attacked Chad border garrisons. Chad has accused both Libya, its long-time enemy, and Sudan of being behind the clashes.

## Le Pen leader by acclaim

Paris — M Jean-Marie Le Pen was re-elected as leader of the extreme right-wing movement, Front National (Alan Tiller writes). The congress in Nice also adopted the anti-immigrant slogan: "Produce French With the French". Pressure by the Front also forced the immigration issue to the top of the agenda at a joint rally of traditional right-wing parties at Villepinte, the exhibition complex next to Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris. M Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, in the keynote speech, urged a tightening of the Nationality Code to force those born of foreign parents in France to either than win it automatically.

## Nepal sacks 9 ministers

Kathmandu — King Birendra of Nepal has dismissed nine ministers who opposed the crackdown on the campaign of pro-democracy demonstrations and strikes. Yesterday about 10,000 protesters in the town of Lalitpur continued to keep police at bay behind makeshift barricades. Two deaths have been confirmed in protests there since Friday. (Reuters)

## Suicide 'spy' exonerated

Ottawa — Herbert Norman, a Canadian diplomat who committed suicide in 1957 after being repeatedly accused by a US congressional committee of spying for the Soviet Union, has been posthumously exonerated (John Best writes). A Canadian report found "not one iota of evidence" of spying although he had communist sympathies.

## Lambada returns to set Brazil in motion

From Charles Bremer Rio de Janeiro

THE girls from Ipanema have been queuing up this week, along with their boyfriends, outside the Parabanas cinema, a pebble's throw from Bum-Bum's bikini boutique. The object of their interest is an American film — *Lambada, the Forbidden Dance*.

The story is a topical one: a nice girl from the Amazon comes up with the idea of saving the rain forest by going to the United States and dancing her heart out — not just any dance of course, but the blatantly erotic, pelvis-grinding two-step that was sold in a hurricane of hype to Europe last summer under the guise of "fatest

"If it got any hotter, it wouldn't be dancing," says the film poster from the Menahem Golan company which has just scored a dead heat in the Hollywood race to exploit the shrewdest musical packaging operation since the Monkees pop group was confected for the teenage market in the 1960s.

The rival film, called just *Lambada*, tells the tale of a Beverly Hills teacher who turns into a lambada ace at night to "earn the respect" of his pupils. No

fewer than five other film companies — US and Italian — are lambading their way to the bank with titles that include: *Naked Lambada*, *Blame it on the Lambada* (a murder mystery), *Lambada: The Seduction*, and *Lambada: The Sound of Love*.

After its French launch last year, when it became the biggest selling European single of the year, the catchy lambada song now has Latin America and the seaboard cities of the US in its grip.

There is virtually nowhere, from Andean villages to the nightclubs of Buenos Aires that you can escape the relentless dirty, pounded out by the Paris-based group Kaoma, a band made up of Africans, French and expatriate Brazilians.

In Nicaragua, Señor Daniel Ortega danced his way through the recent election campaign to it — the Sandinista radio station was playing little else; in Ecuador, they offer you lambada cocktails in hotel bars; in Lima, Kaoma's synthesized sound blares out from dilapidated record stalls.

In New York and Los Angeles the game has taken off with a vengeance, but the gringos in less cosmopolitan stretches of the country are said to

find the thigh-twisting moves too daring. Now, after some hesitation, Brazil has itself succumbed to what one US critic has dubbed "processed fruit music from nowhere".

Local artists are recording "genuine Brazilian lambada" in clubs, the dance is supplanting the samba and the salsa; one television channel devoted a whole evening to lambada last week, with the cameras spending little time on anything above waist level. As everyone knows, the lambada has done for tiny skirts and miniskirts what the tango did for the sultry black dress.

"So what if it was a French gimmick and an American movie?" says Senhorinha Maria Bastos, an Ipanema resident, as she pays her 75 cruzeiros (£1.20) to watch *Forbidden Dance*, which stars Laura Herring, a former Miss USA. "It was Brazilian to begin with and anyway it's fun."

The lambada's full circle back to Brazil is an irony that is being savoured by Rio's sophisticates and deplored by nationalists and purists. "This is the Carmen Miranda syndrome again," complained Ana Maria Bahiana, a music critic. "The old story of foreigners going to Brazil and reaping a cheap profit

Those two Frenchmen were very clever."

An Afro-Brazilian-Caribbean hybrid that mixes salsa, merengue — a salsa-type dance — and rock, the lambada (its name means "whipped" in Brazilian) had been popular for years in the north-eastern part of the country, but was shunned in the big cities as a rather crude rural form.

M Jean Karakot and M Olivier Lorsac spotted the ingredients for a hit when they saw it in 1983. They put together Kaoma, re-invented a lambada sound that combined rock, salsa, tango accordion and other flavours and developed a marketing strategy that depended heavily on a deal under which it was aired repeatedly on the French TF-1 channel.

The only snag came in the form of a lawsuit by two Bolivians who claimed that they wrote the original song. A settlement has been reached on undisclosed terms.

Though electronic force had not been invented at the time, the tango followed a similar circuitous route when it travelled in the early years of the century from the docksides of Buenos Aires to Paris and back to Argentina, where it was reclaimed as a cultural treasure.

## Tekere takes gloss off Mugabe victory

Harare  
PRESIDENT Mugabe, Zimbabwe's leader since independence in 1980, was officially declared the winner yesterday of last week's presidential election.

He swept home in a two-man presidential race, taking well over four votes to every one for his rival, Mr Edgar Tekere, leader of the breakaway Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM). Mr Tolowa Mude, the registrar-general told a press conference, Mr Mugabe's ruling ZAN (PF) party also won parallel general elections.

Mr Tekere's party, founded less than a year ago, failed to make the big breakthrough it had hoped for, although it did better than many forecast by taking some 20 per cent of the national vote.

ZUM complained of biased coverage in the official media and of intimidation by the ruling party against its candidates and supporters. One of its leading candidates was shot and seriously wounded just before the poll.

Despite losing, Mr Tekere is expected to argue that he has succeeded in his main aim of denying Mr Mugabe a popular mandate for the creation of a one-party state, a political ideal which was seriously questioned by many Zimbabweans observing events in Eastern Europe.

Mr Mugabe, who frequently promised to legislate for one-party rule only with overwhelming popular support, had called on voters to make sure opposition parties met their "final death".

The poll results showed that Mr Mugabe won 2,026,976 votes to Mr Tekere's 413,840. ZAN (PF) won 116 of 120 seats in voting for a new Parliament against three for opposition parties. Voting was postponed in some constituency.

A total of 2,587,200 votes, or about 54 per cent of the registered electorate, were cast in the presidential poll, and officials said figures in the general election were similar. There were 146,385 spoilt presidential ballot papers.

The turnout was well below the 2.9 million recorded in Zimbabwe's 1985 election. The voters' roll has 4.8 million electors, although officials say many of these may be dead or counted twice.

Mr Tekere's party retained his old seat of Minare Central, in the eastern part of the country, by a narrow margin, and won a second seat in the south-east.

A small opposition party, Zanu-Ndlovu of the Rev Ndlovu Sithole, an exiled politician, hung on to its lone seat in the eastern constituency of Chitungwiza.

Mr Mugabe's party, which merged with the Zulu party of Mr Joshua Nkomo last year, did best in rural areas where ZUM candidates failed to make an impact.

But ZUM fared better in towns and cities, winning 30 per cent of the vote against some of Mr Mugabe's senior ministers in what was seen as a protest vote against rising unemployment and evidence of corruption among his senior colleagues. (Reuters)

## Tigers' leader back from dead

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

EIGHT months after being officially declared dead, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, called a press conference yesterday in his stronghold of Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka.

He said he would not surrender their weapons "until the Tamils win all their rights". He boasted that his men had defeated the world's fourth largest army, India, had failed to beat them politically or militarily.

The Sri Lankan Army has established a presence in the north and east and Mr Prabhakaran expressed suspicion that the Tigers were not safe from attack, despite a ceasefire agreement. He said the rebels were ready to contest elections.

Rumours of Mr Prabhakaran's death circulated widely after reports of a gun battle with a rival. At that point it seemed that the Tigers were on the run. But they are now as dominant as ever.

The rebels are enormously popular and would without doubt sweep the board in elections in the Northern Province. The aim of establishing an independent homeland in the north and east called Eelam now seems to be closer than ever.

Indian troops would almost certainly still be in Sri Lanka if Mr Rajiv Gandhi had not lost last November's general election. The new government of Mr V.P. Singh, the Prime Minister, promised during the election campaign to end India's costly involvement in the civil war.

The Tigers have never been better armed, having seized Indian weapons. They even preside over people's courts.

Moscow  
forces  
garrison  
Vilnius

bachov puts  
pressure  
Lithuanians

Visit by US  
chief put off

**Tekere takes gloss of Mugabe victory**

**STUDENT** Mugabe's leader in 1980, he declared the victory of last weekend's election to sweep home in a landslide race. Four votes to his rival, Mr. Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe Union (ZUM), Mr. Tekere, the representative of the ruling party, won 20 percent of the vote.

Mr. Tekere's party, which a year ago was the big breakthrough for the opposition, has suffered a serious setback in the election. The party, which had supported Mugabe's re-election, has now split. Mr. Mugabe's supporters for the party, which is now led by Mr. Tekere, are observing the election. Mr. Mugabe, who has been re-elected, has been re-elected.

## Moscow reinforces garrison in Vilnius

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

THE Soviet garrison in Vilnius was reinforced yesterday by what seemed to be one motorized infantry battalion. Fifteen armoured personnel carriers passed through the town early yesterday and the rest of the unit followed in two stages during the day.

The second echelon, which disembarked from railway flat cars at a station next to the airport, consisted of 28 armoured personnel carriers, eight large lorries, two other vehicles, and one petrol truck.

Military traffic controllers directed them by a route which avoided the centre of town and took them to the huge military base in northern Vilnius where a much larger military column preceded them two days ago.

People in Vilnius watched silently as the APCs lurched along, scorching the asphalt and turning corners with difficulty. Youthful soldiers, bathed in the sunshine, poked their heads from the hatches. Expectation is growing here.

This has shown signs, in one important respect, of moving towards a possible com-

promise with Moscow: on the promise with Moscow: on the Soviet demand that a referendum be held on the independence issue.

However, since in the view of most Lithuanians, this team would have to be mainly composed of leading Communists with experience of government and dealings with Moscow, it is expected that the proposal will be rejected by the Sajudis majority in parliament.

The reinforcement of the Vilnius garrison, and reports of troop movements near the second city, Kaunas, are seen as preparation for a possible

military move. It is thought however that Mr. Gorbachov will give the Parliament at least one more formal chance to change its mind.

Violent resistance to an army move is not expected. It has been repeatedly ruled out by the Government, though some members of the radical "Kaunas faction" of Sajudis have been talking of the need to prepare for this.

The Parliament building, which also houses President Landsbergis's office, is guarded only by a handful of

police armed with pistols and a group of unarmed Sajudis volunteers whose only purpose is to stop any action by unarmed volunteers from Soviet loyalist groups.

Inside the building, the foreign press corps has shrunk drastically as Soviet pressure is applied and visas are refused. It now consists of barely a dozen people, including some rather brave Lithuanian female interpreters. Most of those left are Czech and Polish, and only one English-speaking journalist remains.

The last American correspondent left for the airport last night.

This relieves the pressure on the smoke-filled air in the press room, and on the heroic dutiful telephone staff, but deprives the Lithuanian Government of most of what President Landsbergis described this week as "our best defence".

The regular press conferences have been discontinued for lack of attendance, and journalists are reduced to stopping members of the leadership in the corridors. Most look cheerful if tense, though some have an uncomfortable air of people preparing themselves for martyrdom.

Soviet pressure has also been applied on the one remaining unofficial American adviser, and the small group of American-Lithuanian and Canadian-Lithuanian students working in the information centre are wondering about their own future, amid worried telephone calls from their parents.

## Solidarity rallies staged in Ukraine

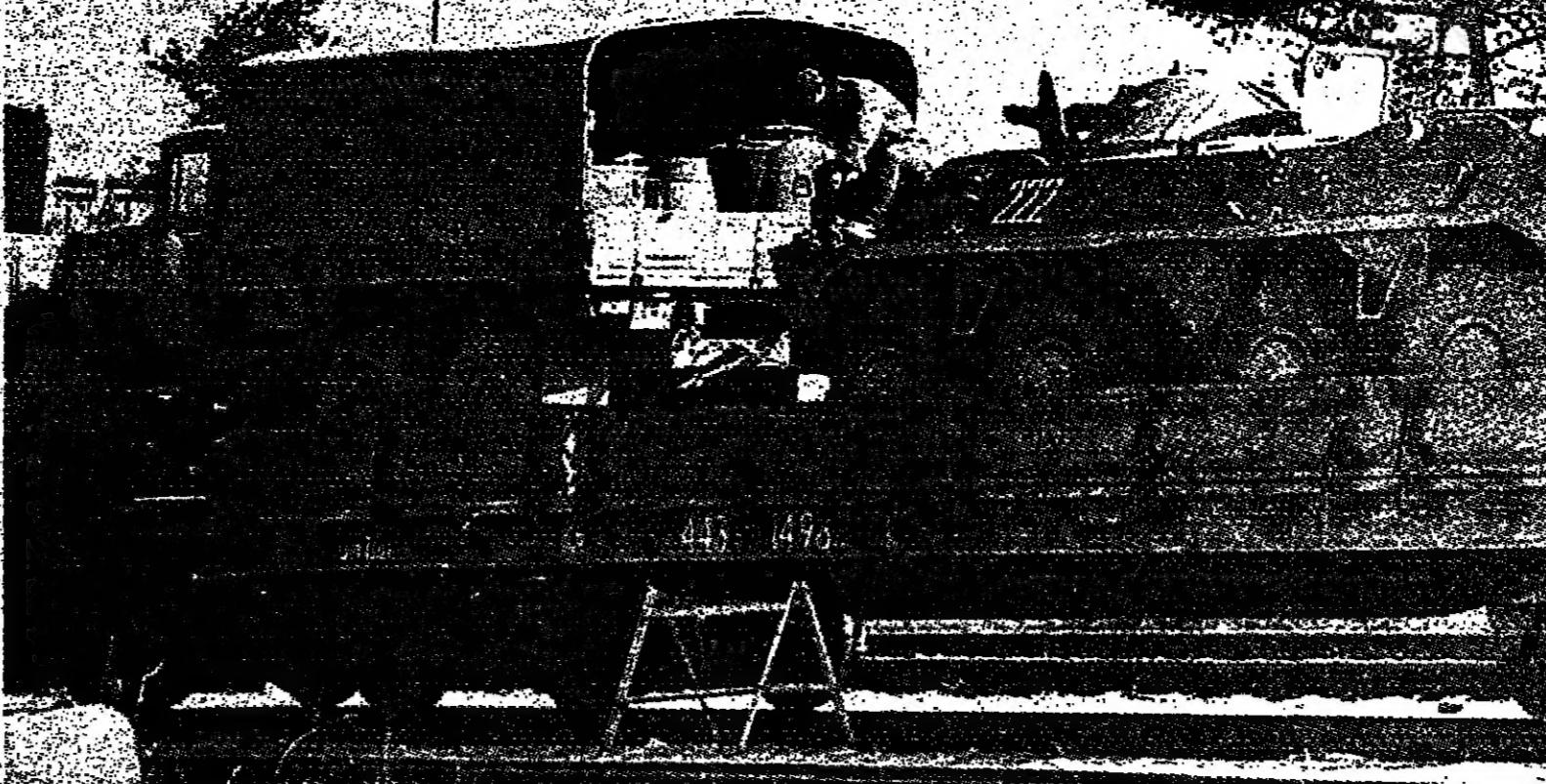
By Bohdan Nahaylo

TENS of thousands of Ukrainians defied the authorities on Saturday and held mass meetings throughout the Ukraine in support of Lithuanian independence. The action, called by Rukh, the Ukrainian nationalist movement, was the biggest demonstration of solidarity with Lithuania so far inside the Soviet Union.

In the Ukrainian capital Kiev an estimated 30,000 demonstrators passed a resolution criticizing President Gorbachov for "interfering in the internal affairs of the independent Lithuanian republic" and urging him to "withdraw the occupying troops" from Lithuania.

Even bigger rallies were held in the western Ukrainian cities of Lvov, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankovsk. In Lvov over 100,000 demonstrators are reported to have approved a resolution calling for a political strike "if the imperial pressure on Lithuania" is continued. Smaller meetings are also known to have been held in Donetsk, Krivoi Rog, Vinnitsa, Rovno and Chernovtsi.

Saturday's mass meetings represent another important victory for Rukh in its continuing trial of strength with the Ukrainian party authorities.



## Gorbachov puts extra pressure on Lithuanians

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov stepped up the pressure on Lithuania over the weekend with a sharp warning of "grave consequences" unless the Lithuanians renounced their unilateral declaration of independence.

He said the situation in the Baltic republic had taken on a dramatic character. The pointed disrespect for the Soviet Constitution, the challenge to Soviet laws and Lithuania's failure to fulfil its obligations to the rest of the country had given rise to "just indignation" all over the Soviet Union.

And in a direct appeal to the Lithuanian people, he said attempts were being made to convince them that genuine sovereignty within the Soviet Union was impossible; old grudges were being deliberately rekindled and "the dark sides of life together" were being emphasized.

He demanded the immediate abdication of the "illegal acts" adopted by Lithuania's Supreme Council, and promised this would open the way for discussions on the whole range of problems on the only acceptable basis - within the framework of the Soviet Constitution.

His appeal followed the occupation on Friday by Soviet troops of more key buildings in Vilnius, including the Communist Party headquarters from which members of the breakaway Lithuanian party were barred.

His warning maintained a carefully calibrated increase in pressure, military and psychological, which has stopped short of outright suppression of the bid for independence but left President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania less and less room for manoeuvre.

Mr Gorbachov's statement was swiftly denounced by Mr Landsbergis as "extremely harsh and vindictive," but he said the Lithuanian Parliament would consider the Soviet appeal today. And

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## Soviet visit by US army chief put off

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE Bush Administration has postponed a visit by the US Army Chief of Staff to the Soviet Union, a move which illustrates the extremely delicate tightrope the White House is walking over the Lithuanian crisis.

The postponement of General Carl Vuono's visit last week was not announced, presumably to avoid it being seen as a sign of Washington's disapproval of Moscow's campaign of intimidation in the Baltic republic.

According to Administration officials, the decision was taken partly because the visit might have been seen as sanctioning Moscow's conduct, but also to avoid the potential embarrassment of having a top military official in the Soviet Union at a moment when it cracked down on Lithuania.

General Vuono's trip, beginning at the weekend, would have been the first by a US Army Chief of Staff since 1945. The move came at the end of a week which saw an abrupt about-turn in US in-



General Vuono: Seeking to avoid embarrassment.

ties. After days of warnings about the consequences of Moscow's conduct, the Administration toned down its comments, refusing to criticize or take sides.

According to reports here,

the Administration's over-

riding concern now is that the Lithuanian crisis should not

come to dominate US-Soviet

relations, jeopardizing

progress on arms control,

democratization in Eastern

Europe, the resolution of re-

gional disputes and internal

reform in the Soviet Union.

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# Berlin alarm over bank chief's terms for currency union

From Ian Murray, Bonn

ALARMED East German leaders predicted a fresh flood of settlers to the West yesterday after the Bundesbank announced plans to bring in currency union fixing the Ostmark at only half the value of the strong Deutschmark.

The bank, which was deeply unhappy when it was told by Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, in February to mastermind a quick union between the two currencies, wants to limit the amount of money people can change at parity to just 2,000 marks (£730).

The proposals are as yet not that that, but since they already have the backing of Herr Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, they stand the strongest possibility of being agreed by the Government. The fact that a poll published today by the news magazine *Der Spiegel*, shows that 60 per cent of West Germans do not want to see a one-for-one exchange rate is sure to give the Government even more determination to implement an idea which is already prompting strong criticism in East Germany.

Apart from the domestic political advantages Herr Kohl will expect from following the Bundesbank's advice, the economic arguments being put forward are difficult for him to ignore. The bank argues that German unity is being purchased with the Deutschmark and that its strength would be undermined by a parity exchange rate. Without a strong Deutschmark, in essence, there can be no German unity.

Herr Waigel has already said that the idea will have a

positive effect on the purchasing power of East Germans and on improving productivity. He will be urging the Cabinet to approve the idea.

Herr Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, has

never made any secret of the

fact that he considers early

currency union may make

political sense, although he

believes it is economically

unwise. He is unlikely to agree to any significant changes in the proposals.

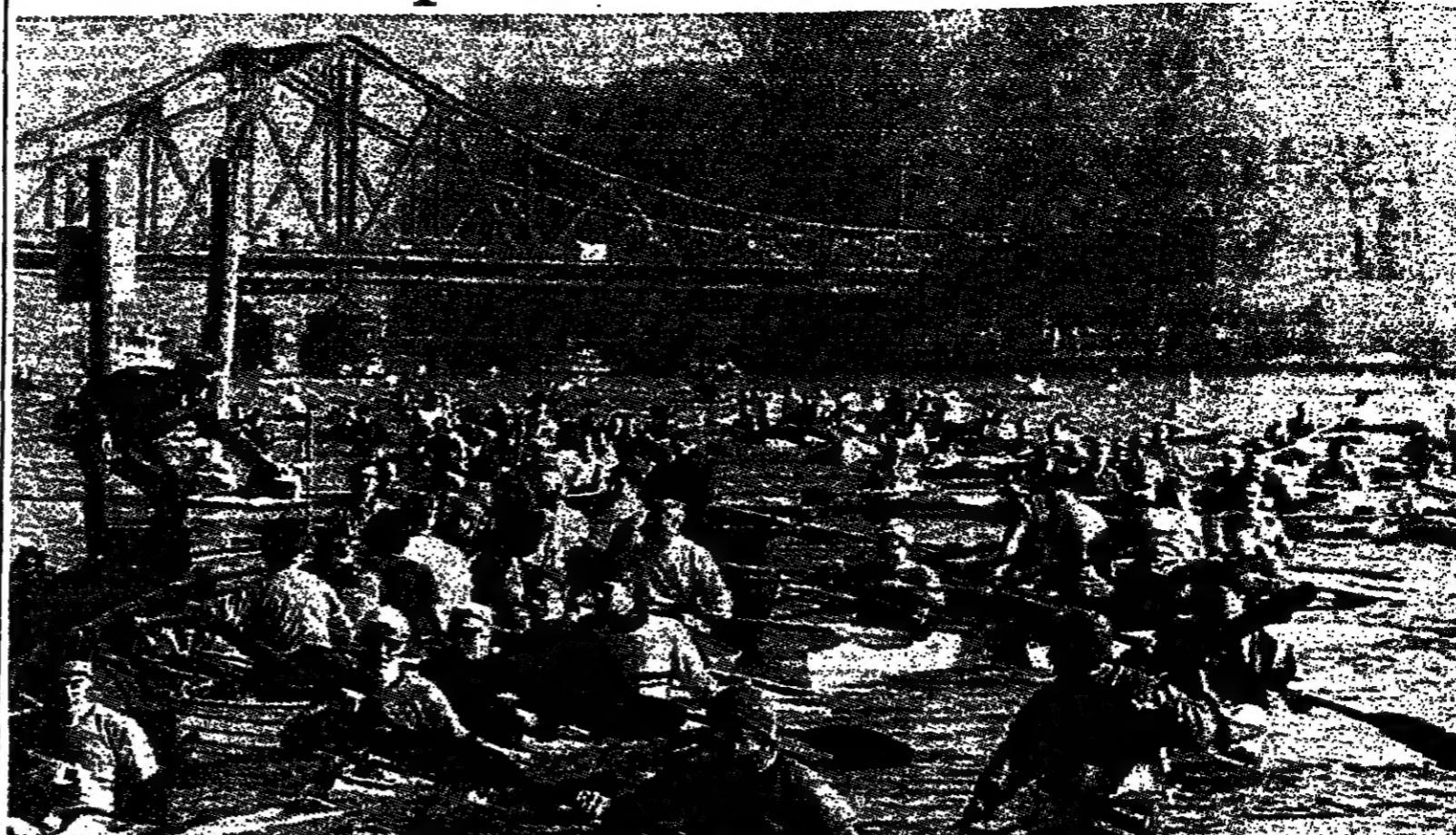
Herr Kohl tried to reassure East Germans that there would be currency union and a strong social security net in place by the summer. There was, he said in a radio interview, no ground for anyone to have any worries. The elderly would be paid their pensions and could be sure that West Germany would look after them.

In an interview with the magazine *Bunte*, Herr Hans-Joachim Vogel, the leader of West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD), tried to raise fears in voters of both Germanies. The timetable for currency union by the summer was too short, given that the necessary legislation had to be passed through the Bundestag. The Bonn Government would have to increase taxes to finance currency union and reunification.

The East German liberal parties feel as aggrieved. Their spokesman, Herr Joachim Linstedt, said in East Berlin that a two-to-one exchange rate was a breach of Herr Kohl's election promises and there could be no question of unity discussions going ahead on this basis.

Ostmark rate, page 25

# Germans paddle across the last frontier



Thousands of Berliners from the eastern and western halves of the city mingling in their craft on the first day without border-marker buoys on the river Havel. The Glienicke Bridge in the background is where the Cold War spy exchanges used to take place between East and West

## Exchange rate unites rivals

From Ian Murray, Bonn

LEADERS of the main East German parties last night appeared ready to form a coalition to create a common front against West German proposals to make Ostmarks worth only half the value of Deutschmarks when currency union is introduced.

Two weeks after the election, the Christian Democrats are still trying to form a grand coalition with the Social Democrats in order to have a large enough majority in the Volkskammer to make

constitutional changes. When party negotiators met in East Berlin yesterday for a second round of talks on a possible coalition, spokesmen said the proposed exchange rate gave them common cause.

Herr Markus Meckel, the acting party chairman of the Social Democrats, and Herr Martin Kirchner, the Christian Democrat general secretary, said that both parties could agree a position on the exchange question which

would be the basis of a

coalition agreement. They expected it would be possible to form a government in the coming week.

Herr Meckel said a one for one exchange rate was a basic part of his party's strategy and insisted that it must cover wages, savings and social security payments, especially pensions. Herr Kirchner said: "It cannot be suggested that our point of view is contrary."

The leaders of both parties will be back in charge of negotiations from today, having stepped aside while allegations of involvement with the Stasi secret police were investigated. After studying Stasi files compiled on them, they are confident there is nothing in them that shows they were informers.

The main difficulty in forming the coalition is whether or not the German Social Union, which joined the Christian Democrats in the Alliance for Germany, should be part of it.

The Social Democrats still say they will not sit with the Social Union.

## Bucharest crowd in protest march

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

IF the Romanian Government has been hoping that beautiful spring weather would keep Bucharest's political activists off the streets yesterday, then they were to be disappointed. Some 3,000 people marched across the capital in the largest demonstration of anti-government feeling in six weeks.

The protests began at a meeting organized by Fratii, Romania's new independent trade union federation.

The ruling National Salvation Front was accused of being a "Front for the Salvation of Neo-communists".

Mr Silvian Tanase, a member of the independent Group for Social Dialogue said that he did not believe that the May 20 elections would be free and fair. "Technically they'll be free," he said, "But in fact there's a lot of manipulation specially by Romanian television."

The crowd moved off to the government headquarters in Victory Square where 18 armoured personnel carriers, which were parked by the building, were started up by soldiers and formed into a barrier. The crowd began shouting: "Who was shooting at us on the 16 and 22 of December?" — a reference to an increasing belief that the Army has more blood on its hands than the Government cares to admit. Among the crowd's usual chants of "Down with Communism" and "The Front is the KGB" they also shouted: "Iliecu and

## Aerial blitz by France on rabies

Paris  
Helicopters take to French skies today to bomb forests and fields with fish-scented rabies vaccine in an offensive aimed at wiping out the disease in Europe's most dangerous carrier, the red fox.

Hundreds of scientists and technicians on the ground will complement the helicopters in the £1.6 million campaign, France's largest against rabies.

Vaccination by ground and air already has cut deeply into epidemics among foxes in neighbouring Switzerland, West Germany and The Netherlands, experts say, leaving France as the rabies centre of western Europe. (AP)

## Mending fences

Senior Domingo Cavallo is to make the first visit to Britain by an Argentine Foreign Minister since the 1982 Falklands war on April 9. On Saturday Britain lifted the 150-mile Falklands Protection Zone.

## Reporter held

Cairo — Sudan has arrested Alfred Taban, a Sudanese journalist who works as a part-time correspondent for Reuters and the BBC, five days after Hamza Hendawi, Reuters' Sudan correspondent, was released after four days in detention. (Reuters)

## By the right

Seville — Partido Popular, the main Spanish right-wing opposition party, has chosen Señor José María Aznar aged 37, as its new leader in a drive to shift to the centre and seize power from the Socialists. (Reuters)

## Early flight

Cape Canaveral — The launch of the shuttle Discovery carrying the £1.3 billion Hubble space telescope, an instrument which could revolutionise astronomy, has been moved forward two days to April 10. (Reuters)

## Shelling stops

West Beirut — A ceasefire agreement has halted two days of shelling and fighting between rival Christian forces in mountains north-east of Beirut that has killed 33 people.

## Saving the bull

Madrid — The Canary Islands regional parliament is to debate a proposed law banning bull- and cock-fighting.

Roman are from Satin's family — President Iliecu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister.

The crowd also introduced a new slogan: "Where are the Irish?" (The only television film of the recent violence in Tirgu Mures was made by an Irish television crew). By 3 pm most of the crowd had drifted off. The weekend saw the beginning of campaigning for the Presidential — as opposed to the Parliamentary — elections. President Iliecu made an appearance at a church service which was to commemorate the dead of the revolution 100 days after it began. There he was enhanced by clergymen and had his face stroked by an elderly woman.

Last Friday Mr Cornel Coposu, the lacklustre leader of the National Peasant Party, declared that he would run for President. Then on Saturday Mr Radu Câmpeanu claimed that he had been asked by the National Liberal Party to present himself as a candidate. He said that negotiations were continuing between the three largest opposition parties with a view to forming an alliance — or at least a non-aggression pact — for the parliamentary elections.

This week will see more declarations for the presidency. However, the only key factor that remains to be seen is whether the National Peasant Party will decide to run a candidate against Câmpeanu — thus splitting the opposition vote. It is also possible that the National Peasant Party might endorse the "independent", generally taken to mean Mr Ion Ratiu the president of the World Union of Free Romanians, who returned recently from 50 years in exile and has declared that his only wish is to "serve Romania".

In an interview with *The Times* he gave a tearful "no comment" when asked if he had negotiated with Mr Coposu on Saturday. Both men had been attending the funeral of Mr Coposu's sister.

If Mr Ratiu is chosen to run as a presidential candidate it will be a campaign rich in irony. In 1984 Mr Ratiu opposed Mr Câmpeanu, who was also in exile at that time for the leadership of the World Union of Free Romanians.

The two parties emerged as the biggest groups in the first round of last month's general election, but initially vowed not to join forces in a coalition.

On Saturday, however, Mr József Antall, the Democratic Forum leader, and Mr János Károlyi of the Alliance of Free Democrats, did not rule out a coalition between the two parties despite their differences over economic and foreign policy.

The Democrats want a speedy transition to a free market economy, but Forum prefers a more gradual transition. The Democrats want Hungary to leave the Warsaw Pact, while the Forum has taken a more cautious, wait-and-see position.

The party was expected to hammer out a compromise in a meeting expected to decide which candidates to back in the run-off.

## Pressure grows for Hungary coalition

Budapest — HUNGARY'S centre-right Democratic Forum party and the liberal Free Democrats are mounting pressure to form a coalition amid fears that the country could be plunged into a crisis without such an alliance.

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# Mengistu plays democracy card to save his skin

Civil war, famine and pressure from events in East Europe have led President Mengistu of Ethiopia to initiate a reform programme. Rosemary Righter examines the extent of the Ethiopian leader's conversion

A STORY used to circulate in Addis Ababa that, at the height of the Red Terror in 1978 through which the then Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam tightened his grip on the country, a large group of university students was shot.

When their mothers and other relatives dared to protest, they were jailed. Colonel Mengistu went to the jail, listened to them, ordered the soldiers responsible shot — and kept the relatives behind bars.

The story conveys something of the methods of the man who joined the 1974 revolution as a young artillery major and, once Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown, shot his way to the top, annihilating in the process not only rivals but perhaps 12,000 of the revolution's children.

This month, another generation of students danced through the streets of Addis Ababa, celebrating the dawn of political freedom — carrying pro-government placards.

They may escape the same fate, but if they do it will not be thanks to the love of liberty of President Mengistu, but because he has been forced to play the democracy card to fight his way out of his worst corner yet. He has been perfectly candid that his apparent conversion to political pluralism, after 15 years of frogmarching Ethiopia's wretched masses towards the Marxist nirvana, is necessary to ensure political survival.

No African leader has explained ideology more adroitly, but it was President Mengistu's conviction of the usefulness of Marxism-Leninism as a means of absolute rule, rather than any dedication to pure theory, which was expressed in the giant billboards featuring his portrait alongside those of Lenin, Engels and Marx.

"Democratic centralism" and the class struggle were doctrines tailor-made for preserving the "integrity" of the Ethiopian empire, the cause for which President Mengistu has spent two thirds of the national budget, press-ganged children and women into sub-Saharan Africa's longest army — and on which, even with the enemy at the gates, he still

refuses to admit defeat. The hammer-and-sickle insignia and the socialist slogans may now quietly be painted out, the Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party of Ethiopia is renamed the Democratic Unity Party (all ideologies welcome) and — just possibly — other parties suddenly deemed acceptable. But when the President says, as he did last month, that "Ethiopia must adapt or perish", there is no reason to suppose that he does not, now as always, refer to himself.

Now is it likely that his promises of regional autonomy mean that he seriously intends to relinquish the grip of the Amhara, Ethiopia's imperial ruling nation, over the restive Oromos, Eritreans, Tigreans, Somalis and other "subject races" — all of which, in one of the revolution's many hollow pledges, were promised equal rights by the Dergue in 1974. They have been granted by the rebels with some derision.

Rebel forces have wrested control of most of Tigre and Eritrea from the demoralized army, which seems, after last year's brutal purges of the general command, incapable of effective counter-attack, and have seized and held the strategic port of Massawa. Tigrean troops are making gains in the Amhara heartlands of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa, and moving steadily south towards the capital, Addis Ababa. Between four and five million peasants are at risk of starvation, many of them behind rebel lines. Ethiopia's Cuban allies have gone home, and the arms agreement with the Soviet Union, without which President Mengistu has no hope of holding Ethiopia's centrifugal empire together by force, runs out next year and may not be renewed.

President Mengistu may even see disquieting parallels between the present and the circumstances surrounding the "step-by-step" revolution of 1974. The catalyst for Haile Selassie's overthrow was a bitter famine, a disillusioned officer class, and the discontent of overtaxed peasants against rule to land. Famine again stalks the land. The military is divided, its officers sick of purges and its conscripts weary of fighting unwinable civil wars. The

fact that another joint venture law was promulgated last August reveals how little the first meant, and Westerners who believed that the revolution was moderating were cruelly shocked by subsequent events.

In 1985, at the height of a severe famine, the Government announced plans to resettle 1.5 million "volunteers" (some of whom were forced at gunpoint on to



When President Mengistu says his country must "adapt or perish", he candidly admits his conversion to pluralism is necessary to ensure his political survival

lorries and Soviet troop-carriers) from Ethiopia's arid highlands on more fertile land — a policy justified by economics which happened to uproot potential rebels to areas where they could be controlled. And in a single year, between 1986 and 1987, eight million more peasants were driven from their farmhouses into state communes under a parallel "villagization" programme — a crash scheme, aimed to shift 20 million in all, to collective agriculture in the name of providing better health and education.

Immense suffering and economic disaster were the predictable consequences: GNP fell by more than 2 per cent in 1988. President Mengistu then announced that state collective farming was a failure, that output had suffered from "villagization",

that peasants needed better incentives and that "the basic issue" was how to involve the private sector in "national reconstruction". Six months later, he announced that 2 million more peasants were to be "regrouped".

Political change has been similarly superficial. The transformation of Ethiopia from a military dictatorship into a civilian republic in September, 1987, was celebrated by a military parade. It was appropriate: the military Dergue simply changed uniforms; and President Mengistu used the occasion to concentrate even more power in his hands.

It would be a brave man who emerged to head the political opposition, and a rash peasant who insisted on his new right to grow what he wants and name his price to a

buyer. It is, after all, only two years since President Mengistu executed officers who dared to ask for leave for their troops — an event followed by the defection of thousands of soldiers. It is six months since 50,000 people were forced at gunpoint from their homes by night to attend a rally in Revolution Square at which President Mengistu exhorted the masses to crush all "traitors". And it is less than a month since Ethiopian forces took their revenge for the capture of Massawa by bombing emergency food aid dumps.

President Mengistu has plenty of ways to keep "democracy" within limits. The apparatus of terror is still in place, from the secret police system and networks of informers designed by the East German Stasi, to the *kebeles* — the neighbourhood committees which control food rations, dispense "revolutionary justice" and, in the countryside, run the communes. Thousands are still in jail for their political beliefs, or simply by virtue of their ethnic origins.

The scale of Ethiopia's economic collapse is such that market-based reforms could, just possibly, go ahead this time. But peace, and the introduction of democracy, will almost certainly wait the next military coup.

For those who have, the aim at least is to enable them to scrutinize what the Bundespolizei has on, or against, them by the end of the year.

However access for persons whose mail was being opened or their phones tapped may be limited.

This is the sequel to the discovery by a parliamentary investigating commission of the existence of those thousands of files, the product of

## Ethiopian rebels claim big gains

ETHIOPIAN rebels have recaptured ground lost earlier this year to government troops and have advanced to within 100 miles of Addis Ababa, the closest they have got to the capital, according to rebel radio broadcasts yesterday.

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said its forces had retaken parts of southern Wollo and Shoa provinces and advanced to the town of Alem Ketemare, the most southerly point they had reached since their rebellion began in 1974.

There was no immediate confirmation from independent sources of the rebels' advance but their leader, Mr

Meles Zenawi, was quoted as saying it put them in a stronger position than ever. The rebels launched its offensive 10 days ago, three days after a third round of preliminary peace talks began in Rome between the TPLF and the Government. The talks deal with the agenda and composition of delegations for full-scale peace negotiations but collapsed on Thursday.

Rebel radio, monitored by the BBC, said heavy losses were inflicted on government forces during the fighting, with a total of 10 army brigades "annihilated". It made no mention of rebel losses.

The TPLF is led by Marxist-Leninists who say their aim is to oust President Mengistu and to institute a broader-based, more democratic administration. They operate in alliance with a smaller group, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement.

The TPLF overran the whole of the northern province of Tigre a year ago and in August began a steady advance south towards Addis Ababa. They seized large areas of Gondar and Wollo provinces and in December penetrated the central province of Shoa, where the capital is situated.

But in December the Government counter-attacked, pushing the TPLF out of a handful of towns in Shoa and attacking its front line in Wollo and Gondar.

The other main rebel movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, meanwhile, has captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, isolating more than 100,000 Government troops in an enclave that can only be supplied by air.

The EPLF regards the capture of Massawa as the beginning of the end for the Addis Ababa Government. Last week the front said it would not attend a third round of peace talks, which had been tentatively scheduled for April 8 in Nairobi, unless the United Nations did too. The EPLF is insisting on UN

## PLO divided over calls for armed attacks

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH time running out for Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, in his attempts to form a left-wing government and salvage the peace process, signs emerged at the weekend of deep divisions among radical Palestinian activists, who want to abandon diplomacy and wage an all-out "offensive" against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the four factions which have hitherto buried their differences to form the "national unified leadership of the uprising", was on the verge of breaking away from the unified command and engaging in "armed struggle", with the backing of Syria.

The success of the Palestinian uprising, or *intifada*, in the eyes of world opinion has largely rested on its avoidance of armed violence. Palestinian moderates have argued that images of armed Israeli troops confronting Arab youths throwing stones has been an effective propaganda weapon in the struggle to force Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But yesterday, Mr Radwan Abu Ayesh, head of the Arab journalists union in East Jerusalem and a noted supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the *intifada* leadership was "in a mess". He said the collapse of the US-sponsored peace process after a year of diplomacy, because of the breakdown of the Likud-Labour coalition in Israel, had caused profound pessimism among many Palestinians.

The PFLP, which is backed by Syria, argues that the planned Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo which were at the heart of proposals formulated by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, were clearly a mirage. In under-

## Swiss check up on Big Brother

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

MORE than 300,000 Swiss citizens think Big Brother has been watching them and have applied to see confidential police files.

There was a last-minute rush to get applications in the post before the March 31 deadline.

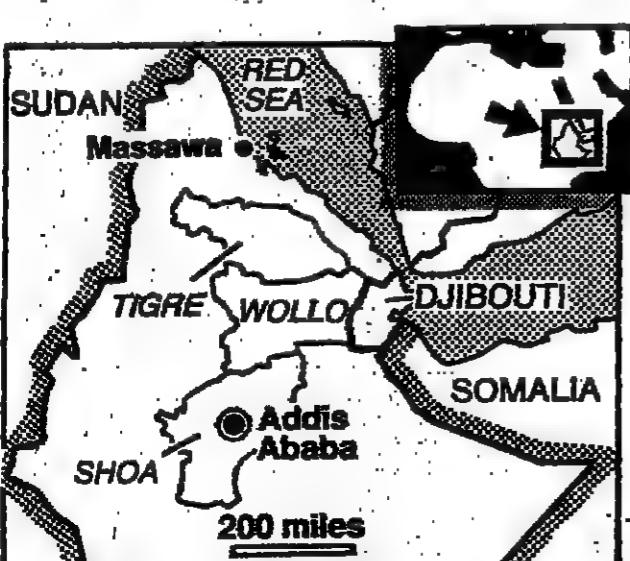
The Federal Public Prosecutor's office in Berne has 900,000 names on index cards and files — at least half on foreigners.

With 30 officials assigned to dealing with the sacks of mail, applicants who really do not have the distinction of a file to be informed of this by the end of next month.

For those who have, the aim at least is to enable them to scrutinize what the Bundespolizei has on, or against, them by the end of the year.

However access for persons whose mail was being opened or their phones tapped may be limited.

This is the sequel to the discovery by a parliamentary investigating commission of the existence of those thousands of files, the product of



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SHERIDAN MORLEY

We have not heard the last of Luke Rittner. The man who started out meaning to be an actor is now thinking hard about returning to theatre administration in the commercial sector: failing that, Edinburgh and other festivals will be looking at his talents in the light of what he once did for Bath. Rittner has yet to give his account of his resignation as Arts Council secretary-general; the deal seems to be that Peter Palumbo, the chairman, can put his case publicly while Rittner has to allow a decent period to elapse. Then, however, we shall doubtless get the memoirs in an Arts Council tradition established by Charles Osborne, who entitles his book *Giving It Away*. Rittner was given a standing ovation at his farewell press conference: that at least must have taken him back to his acting aspirations.

More questions are raised than answered by the success of *Sunday in the Park* at the Lyttelton, where an unprecedented 10-week run without interruption is rapidly selling out. If it is right, and I believe it is, to elevate Stephen Sondheim to the status of Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams as a major American dramatist on the leading London stage – even to dedicate an entire shop in



Sondheim: among the greats

National foyer to his T-shirts and other artefacts, an honour neither of the others has enjoyed – then it must also be right to define some sort of National Theatre policy on musicals themselves.

Apart from the triumphant revival of *Guys & Dolls* a decade ago (the work of the current NT director, Richard Eyre) and Peter Hall's catastrophic *Sam Sereb*, the National has not been exactly famous for its musicals, though *Guys & Dolls* was one of the first projects ever announced for it by Laurence Olivier, who long planned to play Nathan Detroit. The time has surely come for a National plan on musicals new and old, preferably in collaboration with a commercial management, which could transfer the best to the West End to recoup their costs. Even with 10 uninterrupted weeks, the National will have a hard time making *Sunday in the Park* profitable, unless it is brought back in the autumn.

In the current panicky world of New York books and bookmen, whole publishing houses are up for auction among them Grove Weidenfeld, the result of merging Grove Press with Lord Weidenfeld's new American house. What a pleasant role reversal it would be in Britain to have authors bidding for publishing companies.

Michael Codron, the most distinguished producer in the commercial West End, has a season which would be the envy of either the RSC or the NT: having opened the new Alan Ayckbourn at the Globe, he now goes straight on to the new Michael Frayn, *Look, Look*. Described by Frayn himself as a companion-piece to his triumphant backstage *Noises Off*, this one is about, in his words, "the other half of the great confrontation which constitutes live theatre... the audience itself. They arrive as individuals and gradually become one single corporate creature."

After *Look, Look* opens next week at the Aldwych, with a cast headed by Stephen Fry and Robin Bailey, Codron moves on May



Codron: hat-trick of hits?

to the new Simon Gray, *Hidden Laughter*, with a cast led by Felicity Kendal and Peter Barkworth. Neither will say what it is about, though the casting again hints at Codron's gift for putting TV comedy stars into more demanding material.

Next Sunday's Olivier Awards at the Dominion, the first since the death of the man who gave them their name, will also be notable for the absence of Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose *Aspects of Love* has remarkably failed to collect even a single nomination from the judges. Lloyd Webber will not, however, be sulking in his tent: he will be on Broadway, where the original cast of *Aspects* opens that night to some of the greatest advance bookings in American theatre history. That should be some consolation for the lack of a Larri.

"DRAUGHT" Guinness, now available in cans," says the voice from my clock-radio which rouses me each morning. Sometimes I wake up and wonder whether the dream world from which I have just come is more real than the one I now re-enter. Will a little lady pop out of the Guinness tin and pull you a pint on the spot?

And I sit on the number 15 bus, longing to ask the other passengers for their own reaction to this and other questions. Am I blind to the explanations which are obvious to everyone else? Or does each of us travel wrapped in a cocoon of private mystification which he dare not share?

Take, for example, the common aspirin. How can it work? It is supposed to make pain go away. Yet try swallowing one, then pinching yourself. It still

hurts, doesn't it? And you can feel your toes. So how does the aspirin know which of all the nerves, selectively to mug?

Or aeroplanes. Why don't the wings drop off? The whole of aerodynamics perplexes. Why does a bird's flapping its wings cause it to fly? And how do birds mate? On the wing or on the perch? How I yearn to ask the lady on the seat beside me. And fish – what do fish do? And why do you never see cats making love? And... but, no, we enter a realm in which it would be indecent to tread.

Sex – treated as a branch of engineering rather than literature

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 2 1990

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Charles Townshend puts the poll tax riots in a historical context

## Order: a thin dividing line

is both natural and artificial. Order is plainly natural, and an essential feature of all human society. But the demands for order, and the expectation of civil peace, come only with political sophistication.

England has manufactured for itself a potent myth of civil peace. The English see themselves, and have long done so, as a law-abiding, orderly people. The "English way" in public affairs is moderate, orderly, peaceful. Disorder and violence are alien, pathological, the work of "hooligans" – a capacious term which has become a staple currency since it was coined at the beginning of the century – if not of outright anarchists or revolutionaries. Violence above all is unconstitutional, negative, subversive of law and order, in a word, unEnglish. Foreigners, we add, have not always seen it this way.

Standing back from this self-image, we can see fairly clearly when the modern idea of order was put together. Until the mid-

19th century, English public order was to an astonishing extent self-imposed. As a result it was pretty erratic. The apparatus of state control was exiguous, at least at ground level on a day-to-day basis. Local police forces were tiny and incompetent.

Mobs periodically swept through country towns in protest against taxes, shortages, or militia service. More often crowds assembled to take sides in elections or to take part in festivals. Order was effectively negotiated between magistrates and crowds, with occasional interventions by the Army under the Riot Act when things got out of hand. It was a commonplace to say that the English were so hostile to the idea of the state that they preferred violence to the threat posed by a professional police.

When the professional police force was finally established in London in 1830 and in the provinces in 1856, it did not immediately create a police state. But it did redefine public order. Besides – and usually before –

fighting crime, the new police took control of public spaces and tightened their grip on the tradition of public assembly. The Trafalgar Square battles in 1887 were a response.

The reaction of the police showed the way to the future: a blanket ban on public demonstrations in London for six years. The Home Secretary at the time, a Conservative, believed that the police had over-reacted. For some time after that there was a tension between the traditional tolerance of the Minister and the new aims of the police, but over the next century demands for absolute public order gradually prevailed. A decisive point in this process was the sense of national discipline asserted in the First World War and re-preserved in the Second.

As this image of perfect order was built up, disorder came to appear far more dangerous to society than it had been in the past. The social fabric seems more fragile the tighter it is stretched.

In the 1970s it began to come apart at the seams. The Red Lion Square disturbances came as a shock, but soon began to look almost tame as a sequence of disorders culminated in the great inner-city explosions of the early 1980s. At the same time, a constant accompaniment of violent crime – above all mugging – and terrorism amplified the demand for a reassertion of order. Parliamentary committees, Home Office study groups, and White Papers followed. The result was the Public Order Act of 1986.

Yet it is still no easier than it ever was to say what order is or how it can be guaranteed. In the English tradition, order was a state of mind as much as a mode of behaviour. The common law laid down only the vaguest rules about how peace, once broken, was to be restored. Every public assembly contains the possibility of disorder, but the line between an orderly and a disorderly crowd is a fine one, lying to a great extent in the eye of the beholder. Because the British have been so reluctant to admit that theirs is a society with disorderly tendencies, they have also been unwilling to frame laws which would help give the police a response to disorder. At Amritsar in 1919, for instance, Brigadier Dyer ordered his men to open fire because a crowd failed to disperse. The crowd was not disorderly but it posed a threat to public order. Dyer misread that crowd, but no English law could have told him how to read it right.

The first Public Order Act in 1936 made no attempt to define public order as such, and concentrated on the specific problem of fascist meetings and marches. In this it was very English. For 50 years it did duty as the only public order law.

Its replacement is wider in its reach, and has confirmed the long-term trend towards tight police control of the whole public sphere. In common with most official rhetoric in the 1980s it urges the need to restore the traditional responsibility of community. Yet its framers could not have anticipated the impact of the community charge.

Charles Townshend is Professor of Modern History at Keele University and author of *Britain's Civil Wars* (Faber, 1986).

## Road to ruin that is paved with gold

Bernard Levin writes a contract that would make executives accountable for incompetence – instead of rewarding them



For all ambitious youngsters today the appropriate call must surely be, "Mum, when I grow up, can I be a failure?" At least, that should be the word for those who have followed the fortunes of the National Westminster Bank and its subsidiary County NatWest, followed by the even more exciting story of Ferranti.

A brief reminder of the essentials may be welcome. The Blue Arrow group was involved in a financial scandal, and NatWest, together with County NatWest, were the bankers concerned. A substantial number of prosecutions followed, which have not yet come to trial.

Obviously, I make no comment on anyone's guilt or innocence. What I can say, though, is that the report of the Department of Trade's very thorough investigation into the financing was as savage a document as I have seen; though it does not quite rank in the history of such comments alongside what was recently said in an official report about the Fayedys, and what was said in another document some years ago about Mr Robert Maxwell, the inspectors' condemnation of what had been done in the Blue Arrow/NatWest affair was almost as severe.

Three prominent directors whose conduct had been very sharply criticized in the report – Mr Terry Green, Mr Charles Green and Mr John Plastow – resigned. (None of these has been charged, nor is it suggested that any of them had done anything illegal.)

Let us turn now, even briefly, to the Ferranti circus. One fine day early in October last year, the chairman of the group, Sir Derek Alun-Jones, suddenly discovered that something like a couple of hundred million pounds were missing from the sack in which the company kept its funds. Very shortly after that discovery, there was another – a Mr Guerin, head of an American company which (with Sir Derek's warmest blessing) had been bought by and merged with Ferranti, had hurriedly vanished from his abode and his office, leaving no forwarding address but carrying an enormous sack which was just the right size for holding a couple of hundred million pounds. This Guerin was an obvious wrong'un from the start, as some had warned, but perhaps Sir Derek was captivated by his skill in balancing a billiard-cue on his chin.

Anyway, there were many who, in the light of the disaster, criticized Sir Derek's stewardship of the company. (Though again, there is no suggestion of wrongdoing – it is not, after all, unlawful to be a sucker.) Eventually, he resigned. Ferranti now looks like the victim of a vampire which has been feasting off his blood all night, and Sir Derek is said to be "taking it easy for a while".

Now for the schoolboy who yearns to be something big in the City, and to spend his time there

ruining banks and other businesses. He is truly on to something, as the result in the NatWest affair shows: for Messrs Green, Green and Plastow, as they left NatWest, picked up, among the three of them, £505,000. History does not record in what proportions they shared the booty, though since all three fell similarly under the lash of the DoT's inspectors, it is reasonable to assume – "all for one and one for all" – that the three musketeers scooped up £168,333 each and drew lots for the odd £1 – or perhaps gave it to Oxfam. (No, it must have been War on Want, which has just gone out of business, two million in the hole.) Nor has Sir Derek Alun-Jones's extraordinary skill at grave-digging gone unrecognized by Ferranti; he has trousered £490,000. I dare say the company was willing to shell out the full half-million, but perhaps Sir Derek pointed out that it might be thought a touch vulgar.

Well, Madam? I know that your Johnny, for all that he is

gone sixteen, cannot count up to 20 without taking his socks off, but would that, you must ask yourself, be a handicap in a financial career, at any rate in this country? The goings-on at NatWest and Ferranti suggest strongly that it might be a distinct advantage, and indeed, you would be wise, when you are thinking of sending his young brother Tommy for a job interview, to dig into Tommy's head that if he should be asked what there would be anything like twice five makes (it is unlikely that there would be anything more taxing by way of scrutiny), he should say only "Dunno", preferably in a surly tone.

But the contract did not make itself, did it? Was it unthinkable to build into its provisions a clawback against precisely what eventually happened? So far from being admired as exemplars of uprightness for sticking to a legal bargain, however expensive, those responsible for handing out the contracts in the first place should certainly experience the 18th floor headache alongside the more obvious blunderers. Surely it should not be beyond the ability of mighty companies to draw up contracts of engagement which stipulate that, say, culpable negligence, or official condemnation as unfit for a post of responsibility, or the making of a mistake that costs the company millions, will lead not to an exit paved with gold, but to nothing but vigorous kick in the balance-sheets?

You say they wouldn't sign a contract on those conditions, but would go elsewhere? What a perfectly splendid solution!

Not long ago, at the annual meeting of a leading British bank (it might even have been NatWest), a shareholder proposed himself for appointment to the board. Naturally, he was given short, though courteous, shrift. But one remark made by the chairman was more illuminating than he might have realized: he explained that the

so-called distribution of income and wealth is in fact an unintended consequence of all the millions of individual acts of buying and selling which take place in a market. Indeed, Hayek bemoans the fact that so many defenders of the market (including Mrs Thatcher?) defend it on

the grounds that it rewards merit when it does not. If Hayek is correct, the rich have no reasonable cause for self-congratulation, because their wealth does not reflect any kind of special merit.

The notion that the rich deserve their rewards can be weakened in other ways, too. First of all, many of those who have been most successful have had the benefit of fortunate genetic endowment and family background, for which they can clearly claim no credit. One can only be said to deserve something when one bears the greatest personal responsibility for its achievement. But while personal responsibility has a central role, we should not go over the top about it morally because it is exercised against a background of circumstances over which the individual has had little control and for which he can claim little credit.

Secondly, any complex economy is a system of interdependence. Those with skills can exercise them only against a background of co-operation, and it is important that this background is seen as fair.

If these factors blunt the individualist view of personal responsibility, in the case of the rich, so, therefore, they do with the poor. Obviously personal responsibility plays its part, but unfortunate family background, schooling and genetic endowment are also major contributors. Those who grow up with limited aspirations and with poor role models bear only a limited degree of responsibility for the position they are in.

I have commented before in these columns about the resemblance between contemporary political debates and those which took place within Liberalism at the end of the last century. At that time there were strong feelings about the undeserving poor, particularly embodied in the work of the Charity Organisation Society and satirized by Bernard Shaw in *Eliza Doolittle's* father, who drank somewhat more than did the deserving poor. One response to that was made by John Hobson, the social democratic thinker, who described those who believed in the moralizing of the poor as clothed in the "dirty rags of their own righteousness".

This attitude did little for the poor then. We have been around this track before and it is time we learned from it, otherwise political debate about poverty is in danger of reinventing the wheel.

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

Raymond Plant takes issue with the just-deserts theorists

## Hardly poor by choice

Just before announcing his

retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie

warned of the dangers of Britain

becoming a Pharisee society in

which the rich and successful

took too much pride in their

achievements.

British society seems to be growing more judgemental at both ends of the income spectrum. On the one hand there is a strong view that the rich deserve their wealth because they have taken the risks, put in the effort, and have had the confidence to be mobile; furthermore, on this free-market view, self-enrichment benefits everybody, including the poor, through the trickle-down effect: what the rich and meritorious consume today will eventually trickle down to the rest of society.

Along with this view of the high earner's just deserts, there is a growing belief that the poor, or at least the able-bodied among them, may deserve their poverty, since it is not just the consequence of lack of money and resources but, at least in part, of their own choices and of enterprise and initiative.

This was a point made by a number of pundits at the turn of the year when they consulted their crystal balls to see what the new decade had in store. In the view of several, we would discover the undeserving poor and this would put a brake on the welfare state. People would not willingly pay taxes to support the poorer sections of society when their poverty was, as it were, self-inflicted.

This view also found an echo in the response by Lord Jacobovits, as Chief Rabbi, to the Church of England's *Faith in the City* report. For him, its big failing was its neglect of ways in which individuals and communities could help themselves out of poverty and out of the inner-city ghettos. The Jewish community had managed to do this, and he recommended the same sort of values to those in the inner cities today. What was needed, so it seemed, was the renormalization of the poor. Until their attitudes were changed, collective action and resources could play only a secondary role.

So there do seem to be grounds for the claim that we are living in a more judgemental society. The rich deserve their higher incomes; poverty is as much a matter of attitude and lifestyle as it is of the lack of resources.

However, there is a flaw in this free-market philosophy because, as Hayek has argued for 40 years, the market does not reward according to any particular principle, and certainly not desert. The so-called distribution of income and wealth is in fact an unintended consequence of all the millions of individual acts of buying and selling which take place in a market. Indeed, Hayek bemoans the fact that so many defenders of the market (including Mrs Thatcher?) defend it on

sweeps. The last time I employed one in Derbyshire he drove six miles from Matlock with his van and ladder and spent half the morning making a very thorough job. All for £5. How does this man live? How do lampshade shops on the Old Brompton Road, whose rents must be thousands of pounds per week but which always seem bereft of customers, stay afloat?

And how do you know people are looking at you? One can spot and return a glance across fifty yards, yet the eye-deflection that marks the glance and defines its target is tiny: can you in fact see the pupil of another person's eye, at all, at that distance?

Bursting with curiosity, I alight at the Strand. My bus pulls away, taking with it 50 fellow-citizens I may never meet again. I wonder if they knew.

## You get nowhere unless you ask



MATTHEW PARRIS

knows to drop out at five? Why are there not short-haired and long-haired humans?

And how does frizzy hair know how to frizz, and where? Why

aren't there people whose hair frizzes in patches and grows straight in others, so that the view of their heads would be like an aerial photograph of a landscape of mixed arable farming?



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## RIGHTS AND RIOTS

Free speech is never more in danger than when its friends are goaded beyond control by its enemies. So let us all calm down over the undeniably shocking events in central London at the weekend.

Marches, rallies, demonstrations, even carnivals have long been a feature of the political life of the capital. However peaceful in intent, such gatherings have offered to society's violent substratum the cover of crowds and a cause. Police, public and property are thus placed at risk. When risk turns to reality – as it did on Saturday – the call to limit reasonable freedom of speech and assembly can be strong. It must be resisted. Nothing yet justifies the Cabinet's emergency committee in introducing a new public order act or in proscribing, and thus glamorizing, the publicity-seeking fringes of British politics.

So far, so straightforward. Many people now claim to be intent on breaking the law by not paying their poll tax. The reaction to this is simple. Any proclaimed right to civil disobedience implies acceptance of the lawful punishment – accepted by some who refused to pay "nuclear weapons taxes". No such ideological tolerance extends to those who perpetrate mayhem and injury in the cause of defying democratic laws. The one is a private argument between the individual and the state; the other is reckless hooliganism.

Saturday was the latter. Many rallies directed, in essence, at capturing the attention of the London media now lay themselves open to hijacking by such forces as much as do some football matches. In recent years, this has applied to the miners, anti-apartheid groups, students and the Notting Hill carnival. Protests of non-violent innocence by the "organisers" of Saturday's rally, a body calling itself the All-Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation, cut no ice. The past month has seen a clear pattern of similar violence at town halls around the country, orchestrated by supporters of this body.

That the Federation may be in dispute with other socialist and anarchist groups equally girt about with far-left jargon is of no concern. It knew what it was unleashing on London and must take responsibility for it. The Labour MP's whose oratory gave Saturday its chaotic overtone may now claim ignorance of the sinister banners, cheering them on. They cannot be that naive.

The anti-poll tax lobby's right to state its case is unarguable. Its demand to state it in the crowded streets of central London, to occupy Whitehall or Parliament Square, or even to act as a magnet for violent elements to pack Trafalgar Square itself, must be open to

## MR MUGABE'S VICTORY

Not even his most loyal political ally could describe Mr Robert Mugabe's election victory this weekend as famous. His winning margin (more than four to one in the presidential poll) was clear enough. But nearly half of the electorate stayed at home, which suggests little popular enthusiasm.

This may say as much about his opponent, Mr Edgar Tekere, as it does about Mr Mugabe. Mr Tekere's Zimbabwe Unity Movement won 20 per cent of the vote, better than some observers expected, though this will not be reflected in the new parliament. The conclusion must be that critics of the government were unimpressed by the alternative on offer.

Mr Tekere, a former associate of Mr Mugabe, has blamed his failure on violent intimidation and press bias; a complaint that is by no means unfounded. The principal human rights group in Zimbabwe, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, last week questioned the fairness of the poll, in view of the violence which marred the campaign. For this, it accused Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party of being mainly responsible.

Nor is Mr Tekere's second claim unsubstantiated. The Government's control over radio and television and Zanu-PF influence over the press gave Mr Mugabe a significant advantage. "Aids kills. So does ZUM" was one of the more pithy pro-Mugabe advertisements on television. Press freedom has never been Mr Mugabe's strong suit – except when referring to his southern neighbour, South Africa.

Zimbabwe celebrates a decade of independence later this month. It is known that Mr Mugabe wanted to use the election as a mandate to establish a "one-party state". Since the merger between Zanu-PF and its previous rival, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu, the country is already dominated by one party. Mr Mugabe would still like to turn *de facto* into *de jure*. While this figured little in the campaign, the outcome was certainly a test of public enthusiasm for Mr Mugabe and his colleagues.

## EIGHT MEN IN A BOAT

The sun slanted through the trees on Chiswick Reach. Ducks flapped and splashed across the shining river. There was "laughter, learned of friends, and gentleness in hearts at peace, under an English Heaven". And Oxford won again.

A canvas ahead of the Grand National and the cuckoo, the Boat Race marks the beginning of spring and longer days. Ahead stretch the Derby, Wimbledon and Lord's, strawberries, wasps' nests and snatched damp holidays in Devon. Putney-to-Mortlake helps steer us into the stream of the seasons.

As a sporting spectacle, however, the Boat Race has dreadful shortcomings. Once upon a time, it neatly split the British nation. Cockney London bought favours in light or dark blue. Those who had never been to Putney, let alone Oxford, still appeared to care. Most now watch the television sets, pen in hand, awaiting the football scores.

More to the point, the encounter is almost invariably a procession, not a race. Victory goes to the faster boat over the first few hundred yards: as if the first goal won the match and the rest is merely playing for time. This must be the one race in Britain where it is easier to watch the start than the finish.

question. Such demonstrations that might lead to violence should at very least be confined away from crowded streets in such open spaces as Hyde Park, where the police can adopt a more discreet presence. There may be little new about the London mob. Something new may be needed in order to contain it, including denying them the absolute freedom of London's streets.

Mainstream politicians have already squeezed the disturbance for every drop of political capital. There is, as Chesterton said, nothing like a broken head to call philosophies into question. Mrs Thatcher instantly charged the Labour party with guilt by association. The Labour party responded by accusing the government of bringing trouble on its own head and demanded a debate on inadequate support for the police. Both have delved into the cynical calculus of who gains more from a tragedy for which neither was directly obtained.

Labour clearly loses most in the short term, despite having conducted its opposition to the poll tax with some dignity. Even after Mr Kinnock's Gorbatchev-like struggle against his hard-liners, Labour is vulnerable to the taunt that it cannot hold the left in check. The party is blighted by the corrupt and inefficient administration of many big cities under its control. The past weekend is a reminder of dark forces lurking in Labour's cupboard, including a few MPs taking the party whip.

Whether this disadvantage will remain for long is doubtful. Violence or no violence, "urgent reappraisal" or mere tinkering, the poll tax in its present form is, as Mr Chris Patten tacitly admitted on television yesterday, beyond coherent redemption. All government can realistically do – short of dropping this tax altogether – is reduce the proportion of local spending covered by local revenue, abandon hope of income tax cuts, cap "overspending" councils and, in effect, nationalize most of England's biggest cities.

Political disorder is not justified in a democracy, but the fact of its occurrence should not impede those seeking to reduce the areas of alienation and unfairness on to which it can leach. Civil violence, whatever the underlying excuse, never reflects well on governments. The energy strikes of 1973-74 and the public-sector disputes of 1978-79 suggested a loss of central authority. Violence is its own publicity machine. It is like graffiti on the walls of Parliament, a sign of waning control. The need for Mr Patten's much-trumpeted poll tax reappraisal is no more urgent today than it was last week – and no less urgent either.

The anti-poll tax lobby's right to state its case is unarguable. Its demand to state it in the crowded streets of central London, to occupy Whitehall or Parliament Square, or even to act as a magnet for violent elements to pack Trafalgar Square itself, must be open to

So the question of how he reads it is highly pertinent.

Following legislation in Harare late last year, the government can amend the country's former Lancaster House constitution on the basis of a two-thirds majority in parliament (instead of the 100 per cent majority previously demanded). Mr Mugabe has his eye on that part of the bill of rights which guarantees freedom of association and the right to form and join opposition parties.

A move to abolish this would be unpopular – and not just abroad. The outwardly smooth face of Zanu power conceals many undercurrents of resentment. Former Zanu members as well as a number of old Zanu traditionalists are known to be opposed to a single-party measure. Whether they would prevent a two-thirds majority in parliament is an open question. But they and their supporters in the country could ensure that the realization of Mr Mugabe's dream would not go uncontested.

The argument in favour of one-party states in Africa is that parties customarily divide on tribal lines and that Westminster-style bipolar democracy is an alien implant. Perhaps this is true, but the case for institutionalized tribalism can only be sustained if opportunities are otherwise provided for dissenting voices. This means mechanisms for factional disputes to be aired and resolved, for freedom of speech and assembly, for a free judiciary and for free press and broadcasting. Mr Mugabe's country, still under a state of emergency, is not a conspicuous adherent to all these freedoms.

Zimbabwe is more prosperous than most of its neighbours among the front-line states. Mr Mugabe has said that he wants to encourage private businesses. He has, of necessity, been careful in his treatment of white farmers. But a one-party state without any accompanying enforcement of human, civil and political rights, would merely undermine confidence and risk that prosperity. One-party states may be Africa's way forward, but they are too often one-way routes to dictatorship.

Few would seek to abolish this curious competition. The weather, glorious on Saturday, usually calls for duffel coats, Guernsey sweaters and thick scarves and true British grit. But the public and its sponsors must surely expect more of the unpredictable excitement normally associated with great sporting contests. So here are suggestions.

A possibility is to limit the weights of crews, thus working towards a more perfect balance of strength. Weight may not equate with power or skill – any more than it does in boxing – but as in boxing, weight clearly has some effect on the outcome, as Oxford have persistently shown.

Another innovation might be a third boat. Thames lightermen could present a formidable challenge, or perhaps other British universities could compete. Alternatively, there might be artificial chicanes to exaggerate the sinuous Thames bank and give the coxing less monotony after the initial, crucial burst.

As for helping Cambridge to overcome its manifest inferiority, the only sensible proposal is for a handicap. Lead weights in the Oxford boat, perhaps? Or ten yards advantage to Cambridge for each boating American? Or just let Cambridge start at Hammersmith – and see when Oxford catches them?

## Soviet Union and Lithuania

From the Right Reverend Mervyn Stockwood

Sir, The Soviet Ambassador does little service to his cause by misrepresenting the facts in his letter (March 29) on the current crisis in Lithuania.

As a member of my family has found his wife in the Baltic states, and her family escaped from the terror that followed the Stalin-Hitler pact, I have some knowledge of the situation.

Here are the facts on which the ambassador might like to comment:

1. The Baltic states were seized by force, just as our Channel Islands were seized by Hitler. Whereas the latter obtained their freedom at the end of the war, the former did not. Stalin and his successors held on to what they had illegally obtained.

2. Most countries in the West have

tried to recognize this act of

brutal aggression and therefore

do not regard the Baltic

republics as part of the Soviet

Union, but as occupied territory.

3. The Soviet occupation, like the

Nazi occupation, has been charac-

terized by appalling crimes against

humanity – murder, concentra-

tion camps and the compulsory

transferring of populations.

4. Shortly before I resigned from

the bishopric of Southwark in

1980 I went on a parliamentary

mission to the Soviet Union as a

member of the House of Lords.

We had two sessions at the

Kremlin and we were invited to

ask questions. Having been told

that the Baltic states had volun-

tarily requested to be incorpo-

rated into the Soviet Union, I

remarked: "Would you be so kind

as to give me the date on which

this request was made?" The

minister of the Soviet Foreign

Office who was in attendance said

he would make enquires and let

me know. I still await an answer.

Yours sincerely,

MERVYN STOCKWOOD,

15 Sydney Buildings,

Bath, Avon.

March 29.

From Mr D. G. A. Sanders

Sir, The Ambassador of the USSR's reasoned letter raises the question of whether a state which (with or without the collusion of another) wrongfully annexes one or more of its neighbours has a right to impose its own constitutional rules for granting freedom to a state it has annexed, even if the annexation occurred over half a century ago.

This in turn raises the wider question of how far back in history a nation is entitled to go to claim redress for asserted wrongs of the past. Is there not a need for a statute of limitation in international law to clarify the many situations of this nature which come to mind?

Yours truly,

D. G. A. SANDERS,

Poole, Wiltshire,

West Sussex.

March 29.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, In his letter of March 29 the

Soviet Ambassador says that the

actions of "the president" of

Lithuania in declaring his coun-

try's independence "are in direct

contradiction with the Constitu-

tion of the USSR."

In full article 72 of the Soviet

Constitution reads: "Each Union

Republic shall retain the right

freely to secede from the USSR."

Very truly yours,

BRIAN CROZIER,

303 The Linen Hall,

162-168 Regent Street, W1.

March 30.

Tea race boats

From Mr Rodney Bewes

Sir, Mrs Serica East (March 10) writing about the 1866 tea race and the honourable mention for the clipper Serica, which finished so close to the Ariel and Taiping, might like to know that the boats that took the pilots to the tea

clippers, the 35ft six-cared Cor-

nish pilot gig, were still raced today.

Three were invited to the 150th

Henley last year, a race I had the

honour to umpire. One, the

Newquay, was built in 1812.

The shape of the gig Bonnet, a

relative newcomer of 1830, was

used in 1867 over at St Mary's,

Isles of Scilly, when Tom

Chudleigh built – have you

guessed it? – the Serica.

Yours sincerely,

RODNEY BEWES,

The London Rowing Club,

Embankment, Putney, SW15.

March 29.

Teaching of history

From Dr Barry Holley

Sir, Dr Jonathan Clark (article, March 23) asserts that no part of the National Curriculum is so politically sensitive as history.

The apparent anxieties of several

observers on the eve of the

publication of the final report of

the History Working Group



## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 1: The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended the Competitors' Conference at International Students' House, 229 Great Portland Street, W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the Children's Variety Performance held at the Revue.

Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road.

Mrs Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE March 31: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, this afternoon was present at the service of dedication at the Church of St George, Leitchworth, and subsequently opened the Methodist Home for the Aged, "Trembath", Leitchworth, Hertfordshire.

Her Royal Highness was received by His Honour Judge Kingman (Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire).

Dame Jean Maxwell Scott was in attendance.

### Marriages

Mr S.K. Berry and Lady Seraphina Erskine The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of All Saints, Odham, Hampshire, of Mr Steven Berry, elder son of Major and Mrs Roy Berry, to Lady Seraphina Erskine, elder daughter of the Earl and Countess of Buchan. The Rev Michael Hawes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Arabella Erskine and Miss Lorna Berry. Mr Harry McAuley was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr W.J. Cortazzi and Miss A.C. Lassen

The marriage took place on Saturday at Bryn Mawr Presbytarian Church, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, of Mr William Cortazzi, only son of Sir Hugh and Lady Cortazzi, of Hamilton Close, London, to Miss Anna Lassen, daughter of Mr Charles Lassen of New Jersey, and Mrs J. Lassen, of Philadelphia. Dr Eugene C. Bay officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Elizabeth Carter Lassen, Miss Suzanne Carter Lassen, Miss Elizabeth Baker Vaughan, Miss Mary Jean Anstruther and Miss Deborah Jean Gauthier. Mr Geoffrey Drayson Knox was best man.

A reception was held at Appleford, Villanova, Pennsylvania, and the honeymoon will be spent in Thailand and the Far East.

Mr T.B. Sale and Miss C.J. Hellwell

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, at Rugby School Chapel, of Mr Tim Sale, son of Mr and Mrs T. W. Sale, of Liderdon, Northam- berland, and Miss Jane Hellwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Hellwell, of Velverton, Northamptonshire.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Catherine and Rosie Palmer and Thomas Hellwell. Mr Jonathan Sale was best man.

A reception was held at Rugby School and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr A.P. Badenoch and Miss M.D. Karanjavala

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, in London, between Mr Alexander Brunton Badenoch, second son of Mr and Mrs Alec Badenoch of Lea, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Miss Minnie Dara Karanjavala, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Karanjavala, of Bombay, India.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Miss Katherine Badenoch and Master Mrs Badenoch. Mr David Badenoch was best man.

A reception was held at the Savoy and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr G. David and Miss C.A. Richardson-Jones

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, between Gareth David and Clare Anne Richardson-Jones at St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr J.W. Dossen-Davies and Mrs A.M. Coles-Mogford

A service of blessing was held at St George's Church, Kencon, Oxon, on March 31, after the marriage of Mr John William Dossen-Davies and Mrs Anne Margaret Coles-Mogford (née Eggar). The Rev W. Glazebrook officiated. An organ recital of Sir Edward Elgar's compositions was given by Mr Kenneth Cook.

Mr N. Watt and Miss S. Bethes

The marriage took place on March 17, 1990, between Niall Alan Rodger, younger son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Watt, of Worthing, and Shannon Marie Bethes, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Bethes, of Dillon, South Carolina. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev Herbert Floyd and the Rev John O. Burttard, Jr, in Dillon, South Carolina.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and attended by her sister, Sister Kitty Bethes, OP, as Maid of Honour and eight bridesmaids.

The bridegroom's elder brother, Richard, was best man assisted by six groomsmen.

A reception followed at the home of the bride's parents.

Mr M. Dunncombe and Miss A.P. Tilbury

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr W.E. Dunncombe, of London, and Anna, daughter of Mr R.G. Tilbury, of Granborough, Bucks, and Mrs M. Charter, of Dorchester, Dorset.

Mr D.M. Chilvers and Miss J.E. Sadler

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs L.A. Chilvers of Lilliput, Dorset, and Janine, only daughter of Cdr J.J. and Mrs Sadler, of Gosport, Hampshire.

Mr A. Phillips and Mrs L.A. Ward

Ms Lesley Ann Ward, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Ward, of Weston-on-Trent, Derbyshire is to marry Mr Alan Phillips, of Telford, Shropshire, eldest son of the late Mrs Lorna Mary Bell, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr J.A.J. Soper and Mrs J. Wilder

Mr and Mrs S.R. Wilder, of Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter Joanne to Jonathan Alexander James, only son of Dr and Mrs James Soper, of Lymington, Hants.

Mr R.P.C. Waller-Fairfax and Miss E.J. Munn

The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Waller-Fairfax, of Berrington House, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Mann of Hoole Village, Chester, Cheshire.

### Appointments

Judge Machia, QC, to be Chief Social Security Commissioner; Judge Meda, QC, to be Presiding Special Commissioner of Income Tax from April 1. He will continue as President of Value-Added Tax Tribunals. He succeeds Mr R.H. Widlows who is to be next Deputy Special Commissioner.

### Nature notes



THE FIRST willow warblers are back, single among the fading blackthorn flowers, or fluttering up to catch flies among the sprouting birch leaves. During the next month well over a million pairs will establish themselves in birch woods and coppices throughout the British Isles.

Large numbers of chiffchaffs have arrived during the last week, and they are back in many of their usual haunts, mainly in taller woods than the willow warblers. Early swallows are coming in, most of them from South Africa; they sweep by, with a flash of their blue back and a sweet twitter.

Wild cherry, or gean tree, the white flowers are open on long stems, side by side with long, narrow leaves. Patches of yellow flowers like small umbrellas sit on the bare twigs.

DJM

of the Norway maple. Some hawthorns are in full leaf; on horse-chestnuts, the candle-like flower stalks rise among clusters of still drooping leaves; on whitebeam, pale green buds are breaking.

Here and there the pink flowers of stockbills are coming out; these precious blooms are generally found close to the ground. Bumble bees buzz around the eight-petaled yellow stars of the lesser celandines.

DJM

## OBITUARIES

### LT-COLONEL ROBIN HASTINGS

Dynamic on the battlefield and in the saddle



LT-COLONEL Robin Hastings, DSO and Bar, OBE, MC, an outstanding soldier and horseman, died on March 28 at the age of 73. After a brilliant wartime career, during which he was commanding a battalion in action by the age of 24, he became one of the leading amateur jockeys in the immediate post-war era, and for 20 years the much respected chairman of the British Bloodstock Agency until his retirement in 1986.

Robin Hood William Stewart

was born on January 16, 1917, the son of the Hon Osmond Hastings, and was heir presumptive to the 15th Earl of Huntingdon.

He was educated at Stowe and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read history. He was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade direct from Oxford.

At the battle of El Alamein Hastings was GSO2 in the 7th Armoured Division, and ran John Harding's (later Field Marshal Lord Harding) tactical headquarters, accompanying him in an open jeep throughout the battle and winning the MC.

After the fall of Tunis, Hastings was among the high flyers of the Desert War, whom Montgomery selected for rapid promotion.

He was given command of the 6th Green Howards in the 50th Division and led them with great élan during the Sicilian campaign.

His most outstanding action, however, came in the Normandy landings when the 6th Green Howards took the Mont Fleury battery and cleared 50th Division's beach of small arms fire.

The citation for his DSO speaks of his extraordinary courage and leadership of his DSO for operations on the

battalion during the landings and the subsequent severe fighting in the beachhead, in which the battalion's casualties, including himself, were so severe that it had to be disbanded.

When he was fit again, he took command of 2nd KRR (60th Rifles) in Mike Carver's (later Field Marshal Lord Carver) 4th Armoured Brigade as it crossed the Somme during the advance to Brussels, and commanded them until just before Christmas 1944 in the difficult operations amongst the rivers and canals of the Rhine delta, being awarded the Bar to his DSO for operations on the

Paradoxically, although he was good with troops, he was enigmatic with a dry sense of humour and not easy to get to know well.

Hastings ended the war as GS01 of 11th Armoured Division, and for a short time commanded the Rifle Bri-

gade as he had done in the

Normandy landings when the 6th Green Howards took the Mont Fleury battery and cleared 50th Division's beach of small arms fire.

The citation for his DSO speaks of his extraordinary courage and leadership of his DSO for operations on the

hospital, he subsequently joined the house staff, and was eventually appointed Consultant at the age of 32.

Rickford became Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in 1965. He was greatly respected by generations of students for his didactic teaching and elegant surgery. For a time he was president of the Hospital rugby club.

In 1946 he was appointed as one of four young gynaecologists to become chief assistant at the Cheltenham Hospital for Women. All subsequently became consultants at the hospital and also consultant obstetricians at Queen Charlotte's Maternity

Hospital. They brought to London a wealth of talent that illuminated the speciality for the next 30 years.

Rickford played a full part.

He was on the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, he was President of the obstetrics division of the Royal Society of Medicine, and was Dean of the Post Graduate Institute from 1967 to 1979.

In addition he ran a private practice from 100 Harley Street and was highly sought after as a society obstetrician. He represented the UK on the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Cancer Committee from 1973

until 1979. Rickford retired from St Thomas's Hospital in 1979, taking up a short-term post as Professor of Obstetrics at the Royal Free Hospital, during an interregnum, where his diplomatic skills served to restore calm in a troubled department.

The last three years of his life were diminished by progressive Motor Neurone Disease, which he bore with great fortitude.

In 1939 he married Dorothy, his staunch ally and support for more than 50 years. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last October. They had four sons, of whom three survived.

Rickford died on March 28, 1990, at his home in Cheltenham.

He was buried in Cheltenham Cemetery.

He was survived by his wife Dorothy, his son Alan, his daughter Helen, his daughter-in-law and his three grandchildren.

He was a member of the Cheltenham Society of Friends.

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## EDUCATION

Edited by David Tyd

# Nipping bullies in the bud

Aggressive under-fives may go on to be school bullies. Barbara Lamb explains moves to catch them young

**T**he boisterous four-year-old who answers back, throws minor temper tantrums and refuses to share his toys is familiar to most teachers. But how do you deal with a constantly aggressive child who stamps, kicks and bites his friends, is violent towards his mother, disruptive in the home and uncontrollable in class?

Child psychologists and psychiatrists, with their increasing concern about bullying in school, believe this behavioural pattern can be arrested at pre-school age. Using new techniques now being developed they hope to prevent the disruptive infant at nursery school going on to become the classroom bully, teenage delinquent or aggressive adult.

Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London has just embarked on a research programme looking at aggressive behaviour in three to five-year-olds. Out of 15 referrals from nursery schools they have selected 10 children whom they felt could benefit most — leaving out the seriously disturbed and the merely disobedient.

According to Jo Douglas, the principal clinical psychologist in charge of the study, aggression in the very young seems to centre on an inability to communicate with their peers and negotiate their way out of a problem. The research programme will encourage them to generate their own solutions; it is a thinking process, not a telling process, she says.

"What we are trying to do," she explains, "is to help them generate less violent social solutions. For example, if a child wants a toy from another toddler he might grab it, or knock the child over to achieve his aim. We will try to help him look at other ways. The answer might still be 'I'll keep shoving and pushing until I get it'. If we point out that such behaviour could hurt or upset, he will be encouraged to think more positively, like 'I might ask the teacher to help me', or 'I'll wait until he's finished with it'."

According to Ms Douglas, these methods have been shown to work in a recently completed pilot study assessing difficult referrals. "Those children began thinking and behaving in a completely different way," she says. "The teachers reported a marked improvement in their school work. They became more sociable, more able to get on with other children and participate in class."

"They realized they were able to think and that there was a choice. They would hesitate and frown, their brows to delay their impulsive reaction. The point is, we are not trying to evaluate and say that's good, that's what you ought

to be doing. We talk about other options and what they think works best. Of course, you might get the unexpected, those who still think violence is the answer."

The positive results achieved have given them the enthusiasm to continue with this full-scale programme, which starts in earnest next term. They will treat the children in groups of five for a term, two mornings a week, and then assess their progress.

What causes children to become aggressive in the first place? "The children whose aggressive behaviour is more pronounced tend to come from families where the parents don't solve conflict very adequately, tend to shout and hit each other — or the child — instead of talking it through and trying to find other ways around the problem. "Violent behaviour is a learnt process," Ms Douglas says, "a learnt way of behaving which can be very effective if you are large for your age at three or four, the characteristics of the school bully." The team will be looking at problems like punching, kicking, swearing and threatening, recognizing that children may be compliant in the classroom but aggressive in the playground. They are aiming to challenge or even provoke the children, by say, giving five toddlers only two pencils to share and seeing how they cope. "They've got to learn to negotiate, be socially co-operative, and we're going to have to stretch them in various ways."

While Great Ormond Street is working with the children themselves, Sonya Hinton, education psychologist at the child guidance clinic in Guildford, Surrey, offers a different approach. She runs a behavioural management workshop for parents with difficult toddlers, and believes that mothers or fathers have to be prepared to change themselves if the behaviour of their child is to improve. Her eight-week workshops, held weekly at the Guildford nursery schools of Shepherds Hill and Dene, have had very positive results. Some of the young mothers who have taken part explain what the course has meant to them. "My approach is altogether different," says Jean, mother of Tom, aged three. "I'm much more aware of what is likely to spark off his bad behaviour — it's like advance warning, and it's working for both of us." Daphne admits: "Before I used to shout and smack Anna. Now I keep my cool and it seems to work." Carol says four-year-old Robert used to be a monster. "I'm now trying to praise him when he behaves well, to replace something bad with something good."

Lack of praise provokes attention-seeking, often what causes a child to become aggressive in the first place. Three-year-old Brian used to hit people when they didn't say hello to him, his mother says. With the group's help, Brian was taught to introduce himself first.



One potato, two potato...

child to become aggressive in the first place. Three-year-old Brian used to hit people when they didn't say hello to him, his mother says. With the group's help, Brian was taught to introduce himself first.

**P**arents are encouraged to talk about one problem at a time. The objective of these workshops, to which fathers are also invited, is not for Ms Hinton to solve the problem, but to supply the parents with problem-solving strategies for coping in any situation, and give them the confidence to know they can help their child. She is convinced that the sessions are most effective at pre-school age, because bad behaviour is ingrained by the time they get to junior school. "There is evidence to suggest that children who have behavioural problems at three are likely to have those problems magnified by the time they are eight. What is more, many of these kids will also have learning difficulties."

The strategy Ms Hinton uses for problem-solving is known as the ABC of behaviour. A is for the antecedents or precipitant events — why is the behaviour happening, and who is it happening to? B is behaviour itself, is it appropriate for the age and development of the child? C is for consequences —

why the child continues to behave the way he or she does.

During each session, much emphasis is placed on the reasonableness of the demand being made on children, and on making certain they know what is required of them. Communication plays an important part. It was lack of communication that caused Janice's problem with four-year-old Michael. "Most of our fights used to be over me trying to do things for him. Whenever I got him a drink, he got bad-tempered. It was never right, either too strong, too weak or in the wrong cup. Meal times were hell, he would throw food at me, stamp or lash out. He would even make a confrontation over where he was sitting — I could do no right."

"Coming here has helped me see that he was trying to assert his dominance. I am a fairly dominant person, he is strong-willed too, and we clashed. The group has helped me see that I can change the whole situation by simply letting him get his own drink and avoid confrontation head on."

Sonya Hinton's own evaluation reveals the success of her workshops so far. Twenty-six mothers whose children were causing deep concern were chosen at random, equal numbers of boys and girls. Sixty-nine of the mothers inter-

viewed at the workshop reported that the child's behaviour had improved; behavioural difficulties at school also decreased, although less markedly.

Headmistress Christine Cousins gave her wholehearted support to these workshops, and she has seen many improvements in the classroom. "Even mothers with problems not so severe as to need child guidance — which still carries a certain stigma — needed to hear that others suffered from the same small difficulties that become enormous in the middle of the night."

Dr Eric Taylor, a child psychiatrist at London's Institute of Psychiatry, agrees with Ms Hinton that with a very young child, to help the child you have to help the parent.

"Parents can do a lot by not overreacting. If a child's aggression leads to aggression from the father or mother, that breeds an escalating cycle. They should react with calmness and control, give clear expectations and reasons to the child as to why those expectations are there."

"The more aggressively children behave the less they are going to get the loving attention of their parents and the firmness they need. On the other hand, a child's behaviour will tend to reflect what the parents do, and this may set a vicious circle in motion."

Michael McCarthy profiles the first of the five finalists in the *Times/PM Environment Awards*

## The man with a growing ambition

THE TIMES  
BBC RADIO 4  
PM  
ENVIRONMENT AWARD



Spadework: Ron Greer and trees — "we feel we should put back what has been damaged. We're doing it because we love the Highlands"

**H**ow does one describe a man who wishes to bring the whisper of alder trees, the shimmering light of silver birch and the bright red berries of the rowan back to the bare hills of the Scottish Highlands?

Mildly eccentric? For many years people called Ron Greer just that. The polite ones, that is. Less well-mannered observers said he was crackers. It was partly, perhaps, that he worked on his own, spending his own money on the saplings and the fencing to keep off the sheep and red deer, and hitching lifts from his home in Blair Atholl out to the shores of Loch Garry, where the landowner had given him permission to plant.

Lone campaigners often alarm us, and there were 50 people to class Mr Greer with mad inventors for every hiker who came across him, asked what he was doing, and astonished, gave him a tenner. The very idea of bringing native broadleaved trees back to the Highlands on a large scale slips easily into most people's list of hopeless causes. No matter that for thousands of years after the Ice Age the Grampian Hills were forested with alder and hazel, birch and willow, rowan and Scots pine. No matter that much of the forest has been cut down only in the last four centuries.

We think of the Highlands instinctively now as wild and heather-clad and bare, and the bareness is so complete as to seem unchallengeable, even in the imagination.

Mr Greer, a researcher in the Scottish Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory at Pitlochry, began to challenge it 17 years ago after studying fish in Loch Garry, on the borders of Perthshire and Inverness, and trying to see if they would grow faster if trees planted

around the barren shoreline increased the insect population.

He became more interested in the trees than the fish when he found that such native species as alder, birch and rowan would grow there, at 1,400ft, quite naturally. It was not climate preventing them, as he had assumed. It was the sheep and red deer, kept there by man, that grazed any young sapling.

A radical realization slowly dawned: that the whole Highland landscape of bare heather-clad hills, now so much part of the picture-postcard image of Scotland, was unnatural.

He began to plant broadleaved trees himself, by the hundred, in his own time and at his own expense, visiting Iceland and Norway with their similar climates for forestry expertise, trying out nearly 40 native and foreign species and they grew.

As the northern shore of Loch Garry began to take on a fringe of young trees, he started to attract supporters. Four years ago they formed themselves into the Loch Garry Tree Group, and now there are more than 100 of them, of all ages, all living in the Highlands. who together have planted more than 6,000 saplings along the

shores of the loch. At their spring planting a week ago they cheerfully ignored the snow that was coming over the hills like grape-shot to fix hundreds more young trees around an eroded gully.

"If you give the land half a chance it will repair itself," said Mr Greer, between swings of his spade. "The heather and tarts image of the Highlands has only existed for a couple of hundred years, but it is unnatural, and we feel we should put back what has been damaged. We're doing it because we love the Highlands. It's our home."

The Highlands, part of the very image of Scotland, as a monument to environmental failure which could and should be reversed, is undoubtedly an inorthodox vision on the part of Ron Greer. But on the once-barren shore of Loch Garry, along with his alders and birches and rowans, it is planted and growing.

• Ron Greer and members of the Loch Garry Tree Group can be heard talking to Valerie Singleton on PM this evening, from 5pm.

TODAY we present the first of

the five short-listed entries for this year's £5,000 Environment Award, jointly sponsored by The Times and BBC Radio 4's PM programme. The finalists, who will be announced later this week in The Times and on PM this evening, were selected from 167 entries from all over Britain, from the Shetlands to Cornwall. The judges were Sir Crispin Tickell, British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the man widely thought to have played a key role in the conversion of Mrs Margaret Thatcher to environmental concern, and Mr David Attenborough, Chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

They were aided by representatives of The Times and the BBC. Readers and listeners will be invited to vote for the winner, who will receive £5,000 to be spent on the furtherance of the winning project in consultation with the organizers. Details of how to vote will be published in The Times and broadcast on PM at the end of the week.

YOUR VOTE

As local councils replace Ilea in running London's schools, Angela Rumbold and Neil Fletcher assess the change

## The boroughs can do better

IT WAS to be expected that abolition of Ilea would excite some media attention, bemoan the loss of a London-wide education authority.

Ilea had its time and place. No one is suggesting that Ilea did not at times initiate and promote some good provision. But its best initiatives, such as its specialist education and central music facilities, will not be lost to the capital.

The fact remains that Ilea spent much more per head than any other education authority in the country. This simply was not reflected in a superior performance. Its examination results for 16-year-old school-leavers, for example, were consistently among the worst in England.

Ilea was remote; its supposedly user-friendly system of divisional offices did not work because all the really important issues were still handled at the centre. The recent highly critical report by HMI on a school in Hackney was a case in point;

it took a widely publicized HMI condemnation to

move Ilea to take remedial steps.

That combination of high expenditure and poor performance persuaded the Government that the only effective cure was a fresh start. Ilea protested at the decision — taken in spring 1988 — to accuse the Government of irresponsibility and claiming the transfer of education to the inner London boroughs could not be arranged in less than two years. Ilea was

where possible. But it is for the new LEAs themselves to create an atmosphere that will attract teachers to their schools.

They also inherit secondary schools with much surplus capacity, and they will need to take these spare places out of use if they are to develop a more cost-effective service. It does not go in favour to teach them in half-empty secondary schools.

The 13 new inner London local education authorities (LEAs) — the 12 boroughs and the City — are racing to go. Schools and colleges throughout inner London will open for business as usual today.

The boroughs deserve much credit; councillors and officers have responded quickly to the prospect of expanding their responsibilities, and the newly appointed directors of education and their staffs have worked long and hard.

I have visited schools in a number of the boroughs, including Hackney and Tower Hamlets, and had meetings with all the boroughs. I am sure the combination of enthusiasm and profes-

ional application I have seen, when combined with a smaller, more responsive local education authority, will produce an improved performance for London children. Ilea's own research last year

concluded that a difficult inner-city environment need not prevent pupils from achieving good results. A well-ordered school, led by a caring and demanding head,

can bring the best out of pupils. Pupils respond to raised expectations. I am not pretending the LEAs have an easy task. They will have to ensure that their professional workers, such as the local inspectors and educational psychologists, can offer the necessary guidance to schools. I applaud the fact that most of the boroughs have developed incentive packages to attract good teachers and overcome the recruitment problems.

The Government is helping; we have accepted the Teachers' Pay Advisory Committee's recommendations and we have reported an Ilea-imitated housing scheme.

Angela Rumbold Minister of State for Education and Science

where possible. But it is for the new LEAs themselves to create an atmosphere that will attract teachers to their schools.

They also inherit secondary schools with much surplus capacity, and they will need to take these spare places out of use if they are to develop a more cost-effective service. It does not go in favour to teach them in half-empty secondary schools.

The LEAs will also face the challenge of implementing local management for schools. They must put in their schemes to the Department of Education by August 1991, and start the budgeting in April 1992. The timetable is tight but I am sure that it can be met. Westminster has led the way by opting for local management immediately.

The focus has been on schools. That is not to diminish the other crucial parts of LEA's service: nursery provision, further-education colleges and the linked youth-careers services. These should prosper still. The boroughs will form their own judgements on the value of different parts of their educational provision.

## A brake has been put on progress

AT LAST it is all over for Ilea. If education in Britain had been marketed like shirts, Ilea would have been hailed as national brand leader for more than 100 years, a kind of pedagogic Marks & Spencer with 1,200 branches across the capital.

If you analyse size and consumer satisfaction — 94 per cent of parents voted to retain Ilea in the parents' ballot two years ago — you find the brand leader also took the biggest market share and showed above-average penetration into social classes A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

So, will abolishing Ilea change anything in London schools? Are we at the dawn of an educational renaissance, or will Kenneth Baker, the minister who abolished it, end up as the April Fool? Schools and colleges are only as good as the teachers who work in them. How good, then, are London teachers?

I remember, as a trainee teacher, in a northern city in the mid-1960s, contemplating taking my first job in London. Even at 200 miles' distance, the advice given to me was uncompromising. London schools are the toughest for teachers anywhere in the country. There are great challenges but enormous personal and professional rewards. London might break you, I was told, but more likely it will make you.

There was no better starting point for a probationary teacher than the supportive networks that Ilea used to provide. A newly qualified teacher would be attached to an induction centre, assigned to a mentor, given a day off a week in year one, and have progress monitored carefully by teams of inspectors and heads.

The Highlands, part of the very image of Scotland, as a monument to environmental failure which could and should be reversed, is undoubtedly an inorthodox vision on the part of Ron Greer. But on the once-barren shore of Loch Garry, along with his alders and birches and rowans, it is planted and growing.

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There were other "special offers" to teachers — an in-house television station that until the late 1970s sent daily school programmes into classrooms, and more recently educational videos; the Ilea publishing house producing books and packs for London teachers by London

teachers; more per pupil spent on book and equipment purchases; 30 specialist teachers' centres; an army of seconded advisory teachers helping to spread the best practice; and the best in-service training provision anywhere.

The Ilea school system would, I suppose, pass the Advanced Certificate's Egg Test — good in sum, depending on how you looked at it. There were many brilliant, committed teachers, but there were many bad ones, sheltering behind the convenient banners of London's mock-tough militant teachers' union, Itea; some fabulously primary schools, devoted heads, and capable, indomitable governors; a number of outstanding secondary schools, usually large, purpose-built, single-sex institutions with a properly balanced ability range; some tiny, inefficient schools on split sites with inadequate staff to offer even a core curriculum of subjects; vestigial secondary moderns, without open sixth forms and remaining in business only by dispatching two-thirds of their 16-plus pupils on daily journeys across London to study less popular subjects under what were euphemistically called "consortium" arrangements.

Will abolishing Ilea change anything for the better? I doubt it.

Change and improvement is already taking place in the system, but abolition will, I fear, actually act as a brake, or even halt that progress. If the factor that turns promising young teachers into outstanding, experienced professionals is impaired, what hope is there of raising standards?

by David T  
IT IN GOVERNMENT  
sea in run  
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etter

## IT IN GOVERNMENT

Clive Couldwell on computer advances which have led to drastic changes in the Civil Service

The Government's plan to allow its Civil Service departments to set their own budgets and so operate in a more commercial way is a dream of many epic proportions. It is also a bold step.

The idea of turning departments into agencies run by their own chief executives and allowing them to charge out for their services fundamentally alters the traditional central government philosophy that the Civil Service should operate on a non-profit basis.

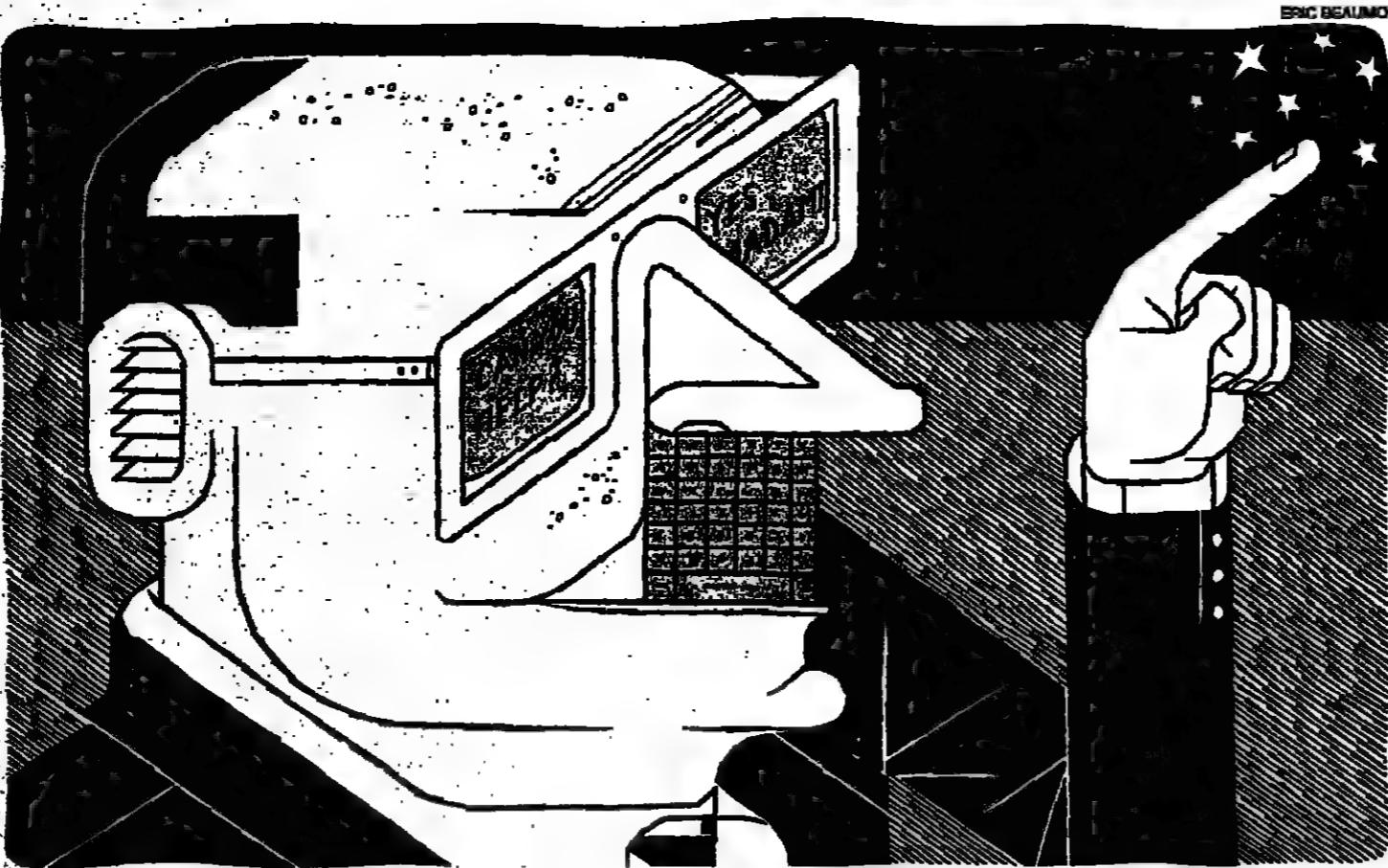
The heart of the new philosophy is information technology, which until now has been directed towards the support or replacement of the clerical process. The challenge now lies in making these resources more accessible to newly accountable managerial staff for analysis and planning.

The general public are now "customers" and are to be treated as such. They are to be assured that proper and informed attention will be given to their needs, not just in terms of timely delivery of "products", but also in their quality and suitability. Government departments will need to define the standard of service

The general public are now customers and are to be treated as such.

offered to customers and the full costs associated with it. A number of projects are already under way; some are major success stories.

The £400 million Inland Revenue project awarded to ICL in 1980 has just been completed on time. It should recover £50 million a year in staff costs and help track down tax evaders. A special clause in the contract allowed ICL to install the latest computer



equipment as it became available.

Since the Inland Revenue project started, ICL has installed three generations of machine and a sophisticated system for searching large data-bases, called CAFS. The network links 50 ICL mainframe computers in 12 regional centres.

Designed in three parts, the first, COP (Computerization of PAYE), accounts for everyone whose tax is deducted by an employer. CODA (Computerization of Schedule D assessment) cover self-employed earnings and a number of different kinds of tax, such as capital gains and the assessments made on investment income.

The third and most impressive part of the project, NTS (National Tracing System), holds the names, addresses, National Insurance numbers and Tax Office references of more than 40 million taxpayers. Records can be matched in seconds and the system removes the drudgery often associated with tax work.

Because staff now make all changes to computerized files directly through a terminal, they are able to communicate with

taxpayers more quickly and accurately.

Just as important from the Government's point of view, ministers can now institute tax reforms (for example, the independent assessment of husbands and wives starting this April, and the community charge

knowing a computerized system can efficiently handle the administration headaches. The same process would have been impossible to carry out using a manual system.

Another blockbuster network project worth over £200 million has involved the Department of Social Security (DSS). A small number of terminals has already been placed in its offices around the country as part of a 10-year strategy called Operational Project.

Its aim is to end the need to deal with each benefit separately and replace it with an approach known as the "whole person concept". Instead of digging through mounds of folders for the relevant details, clerks will be on line to a massive data base — the Departmental

Central Index (DCI). This will give them immediate access to 60 million records of everyone over the age of 16 and information about dead people for widows' pensions.

The DSS pulls in more than £50 million a year in taxes, National Insurance payments and employer contributions. It pays out a total of £47.5 billion in family support and in payments to the old, disabled,

costs in the 1991-92 financial year.

Thanks to the new network,

clerks will eventually be able to

deal with all the benefits at one

time and get a full picture of the

person claiming a benefit. This

will improve the DSS's perfor-

mance and image.

But the process of computerization is not always a success for the supplier.

Critics claim procurement procedures take too long and do not deliver value for money. It can take as long as seven years and cost the supplier six times more to bid for Government business than for work in the private sector.

According to David Teague, ICL's director of central government and defence business, procurement procedures add 30 per cent to the cost of government systems compared with the private sector where the financial burden of procurement is just 5 per cent.

The Government's procure-

ment arm, the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), is now trying to speed up

the process and is reviewing its

whole tendering procedure. A

response is expected at the end of

this month.

... the system removes the drudgery associated with tax work'

sick, unemployed, widows and orphans. To administer this huge flow of transactions, it employs 85,000 people, 3,000 of these in computing.

So far, the pilot system has gone "live" in 23 local offices and the DSS is still on course to have all 500 offices "live" by the middle of next year with an estimated 40,000 terminals. The project should save £150 million in staff

costs in the 1991-92 financial year.

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A 1988 Trade and Industry

Committee report into IT praised

the shift of responsibilities, but

said it had done little to speed up

the process. In 1989, hardware and

software orders came to £375

million, of which £350 million was

funnelled through the CCTA in a

process which could take anything

up to three years.

For micro- and mini-computer

installations, this time lag results in

out-of-date equipment for the

user.

The problem is worsened by

short equipment life-cycles. (Ac-

cording to ICL, minis last about

## A SPECIAL REPORT

## Red tape holds back a braver new world

Streamlined buying policies are needed if the Government is to make the best use of developments in computer technology

Attempts by the Government to delegate procurement responsibilities to individual departments is at loggerheads with the complex problems associated with an upsurge in the use of mini- and micro-computer systems. The wide variety of these rapidly evolving systems, coupled with a lack of information technology (IT) skills in government departments, leads to a fragmented approach to their installation.

Moves to change the long and detailed procurement process have met with some success. But European Community regulations demanding open competition, and a mix of centralization and decentralization in government continue to hamper the development of an efficient way forward.

"It has enabled the enormous growth in mini and micro-computers to be contained without us becoming a bottleneck," Bill Houldsworth, CCTA's acting director, says.

Many suppliers believe the CCTA would function more effectively in an independent role away from Treasury control. This view is supported by the former CCTA director, Alan Healey, who recently quit his job after a dispute with the Treasury over the CCTA's future.

In a report to the Treasury, Mr Healey recommended a management buyout of CCTA, a move which would, in theory, free it from much of the bureaucracy, allowing it to focus on providing expert advice to government departments.

The Treasury's decision to ignore Mr Healey's suggestion, coupled with its reluctance to let go of the reins, makes a long-term solution to the IT procurement problems unlikely in the near future.

And while the CCTA's role

remains unclear it can do little

more than relieve the symptoms

of a bureaucratic process.

Giselle Jones



Alan Healey: disputed role

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# Bids that cost a lot – before work starts

Government contracts can be lucrative, but companies tendering must proceed carefully, Giselle Jones writes

**A**ccelerating use of information technology by the Government means big business for suppliers. Last year, it spent £2 billion on IT – but suppliers face enormous expense in satisfying long and detailed procurement procedures for contracts they may not win.

ICL, the biggest supplier to the Government with 20 per cent of the business, estimates suppliers' costs to be 30 per cent of the contract value, compared with 5 per cent in the private sector.

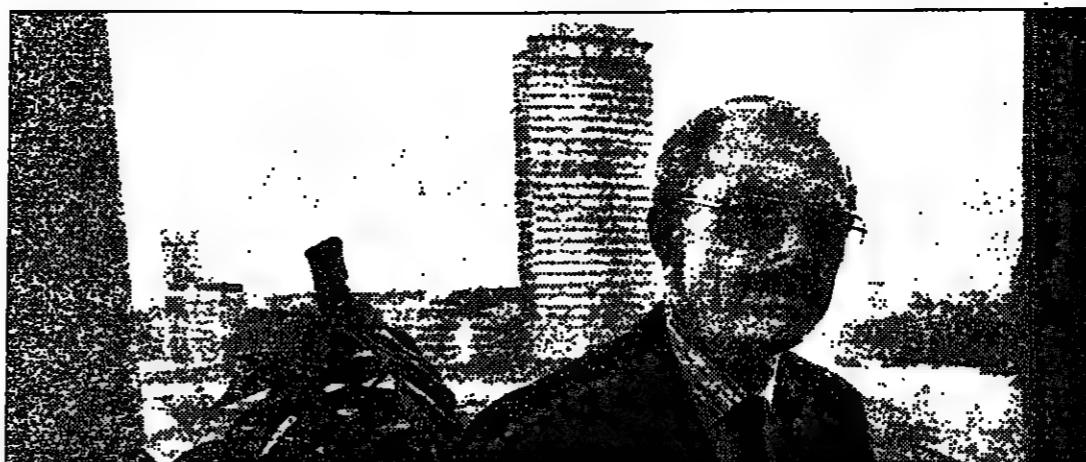
David Teague, ICL's director of government and defence systems, says: "The hidden costs are horrendous. There will be a huge number of bidders, and specifying requirements can take anything up to two years – and a further 42 weeks for procuring."

The view found sympathy with Peter Burton, government sales manager for Digital Equipment, the world's second-biggest computer company. "We cannot afford the process," Mr Burton says. "It can cost us £50,000 to bid for a £500,000 contract and we reckon the costs that government departments face in assessing the bids are the same. Sometimes we do not bid because it is not worth it."

Before a contract goes to tender, government departments must document details of equipment



A tender subject with costly implications: David Teague (left), ICL's director of government and defence systems, and Bill Houldsworth, the CCTA's acting director



needs in an operational requirement (OR). This process comes under fire from critics. ORs take anything up to three years, according to statistics from the Treasury's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA).

Lack of skills in some government departments can result in gaps and errors.

Using consultants counters this, but they are expensive and produce

complex solutions that suppliers end up implementing. They are also often brought in to patch up mistakes already made. In 1989, the Government spent £175 million on consultants – a figure which grows by 50 per cent a year.

Many projects require technical design studies (TDSs) from suppliers detailing how users' needs will be met. Suppliers claim TDSs are unclear and the Computer Services

Association believes many companies are driven away at this stage because of the costs.

"We have to go through the same procedure each time for standard equipment already in use," Mr Burton says.

Suppliers believe more could be done to cut the number of bidders for a contract. The CCTA offered more than 1,000 tenders last year, for which any of the 800 companies

on its trade list could bid. A recent Inland Revenue contract attracted 90 bidders. Mr Teague says: "The Government could reduce its time scales by narrowing down these massive open bids."

But the Government is bound by European Community regulations that require contracts worth more than £70,000 to appear in *The EC Journal* for 77 days before proposals can be accepted. And,

the CCTA claims, the private sector does not have to contend with the pressure of showing value for money in open competition.

The CCTA's acting director, Bill Houldsworth, says: "When I ask private companies to explain their procurement process, they are reluctant. Most of the time they have a definite preferred supplier – we have to go through the long process."

Not all suppliers are aggrieved by procurement problems. Jim Marsden, manager of government marketing at Bull, a French computer company, says: "In the government market, it is up to the vendor to work out the bid costs."

But most suppliers believe that these costs could be reduced. More partnerships between the Government and industry, and less detailed ORs are among the recommendations.

It is also suggested that if government departments focus on business issues while suppliers provide technical solutions, it would save the time and expense of hiring consultants to fill in gaps and correct errors.

Another proposal was to limit TDSs to contracts above a certain value so that fixed prices could be set for existing solutions.

The CCTA already has a project team looking at ways of improving the procurement process by providing more information in advance, reducing the detail in ORs, and encouraging partnerships. And it is looking for a formal consultation with industry and government departments.

But Mr Houldsworth says that while there is room for improvement, "speeding up the process is the most difficult. We cannot get away from the procurement process in an open environment".

## Fraud and loss runs up a bill

Billions of pounds are handled by the Government every year – and much of it goes missing

**W**ith £300 billion passing through its fingers every year, central government is an easy target for criminals. Its computer systems, thought to be worth more than £5 billion alone, hold a lot of sensitive information, mainly in the areas of social security, taxation and defence.

It also provides advice, guidance and support on computer security and the Data Protection Act 1984 through its Advanced Technology and Telecommunications Division, CT4, which looks at the protection of information and the risks to particular types of computer system, evaluates security products, and develops security training courses with the Civil Service College.

Surveys by the CCTA and the National Audit Office have identified a potentially serious failure by many departments to draw up and test effective contingency plans to cope with computer disasters.

The lack of these plans and in many cases the absence of proper stand-by arrangements have prompted CT4 to develop its own risk analysis and management methodology (CRAM) to help departments measure how secure their computer systems are.

Split into two parts, the analysis side values assets (buildings, computer equipment) and data (the replacement cost should it be stolen or destroyed, its perceived value to those using it, how sensitive it is and its responsibility under the Data Protection Act 1984). Risk management reduces these risks to an acceptable level by adopting counter-measures.

There is a need to restrict access to computer rooms and buildings with locks and badges, lock up valuable computer programs and files and to site the computer installation away from, for example, areas likely to flood.

From an administrative point of view, the drawing up of a security policy is crucial to establish who is responsible for maintaining what, for reviewing progress and for carrying out training. And the use of passwords and other devices is crucial to restrict access.

Unfortunately, the responsibility for analysing and managing computer security risks now lies squarely with departments themselves and CT4's security work programme has been severely hampered by a shortage of skilled security staff, an annual staff turnover of 20 per cent and a continual commitment (40 per cent of CT4's available effort in 1987) to classified work.

For the first two years of the programme, only two trained staff were available for unclassified work, and the CCTA had to bring in highly paid consultants. These key staff shortages have forced the CCTA to delay some assessment projects. It nevertheless insists that cases of fraud be "quickly and vigorously pursued".



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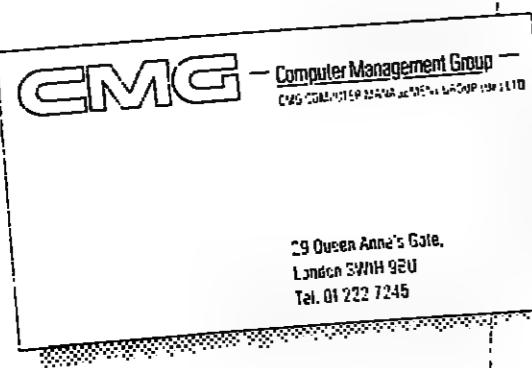
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## THE ARTS

## Keep it central

Simon Mundy, the new Director for the National Campaign for the Arts, responds to Arts Council chairman Peter Palumbo

There is something wonderfully British about the Whitehall compromise known as the "arm's-length" principle. It is a curious but splendid contortion invented to encompass two opposed principles: the need for continuous state patronage and the requirement for the arts, when being inventive, to subvert the pomposity of the establishment doing the patronizing.

Except when Ministers hide behind "arm's-length" to avoid answering questions to which they only have embarrassing replies, it is a good principle. So, too, is that of accountability in public affairs, which demands that there be a proper chain of command between those dispensing the money and parliament which grants it. In the new arrangements for funding the arts in England, however, these twin principles have come slap-bang up against each other. Mr Luce, the Arts Minister, and the Arts Council Chairman, Peter Palumbo, have come down on the side of accountability. Luke Ritner, the Secretary-General of the Council, feels that the main casualty will be the independence of the arts world and so has resigned.

It is a complex issue. Peter Palumbo argued on this page on Friday that devolution to the regions could only be justified if their constitutional independence is modified so that they become part of not clients of, the Arts Council structure. One could hardly disagree with that.

The problem arises if the Arts Council devolves so much to the new Arts Board that its role is dispensed. Mr Palumbo sees the Council divesting itself of all but a few of its present clients for direct grants, and even those would be reviewed after three years. This could be dangerous, because the Arts Council might then become

just another think-tank, producing endless reports, co-ordinating, being an "interface" — and all the other word-manufacturing jobs which are the hallmark of an organization which has outlived its usefulness. While government is handled nationally a strong body is needed at that upper level to protect the organizations underneath, either from central bullying or from more subtle but just as damaging tactics of divide and rule. There is a point at which accountability becomes another word for justified control.

The Arts Council clearly feels that it can counter the charge of creeping irrelevance by widening its responsibilities. Mr Luce has mentioned broadcasting, international affairs and amateur arts; Mr Palumbo has included architecture and heritage conservation. This makes some sense. One of the biggest problems the arts have faced in the battle for recognition of their economic importance is that public perception of them has been limited to those areas traditionally funded by the Arts Council.

Whether this all-embracing remit is right for the Arts Council, though, is rather more doubtful. English Heritage, the British Council, the Crafts Council, the Museums and Galleries Commission and the British Film Institute all have distinct functions which the Arts Council should not try to usurp. If it is going to take on the burden of being the champion of all civilization, it needs to be a richer, tougher and more independent body than it is now. Taking away the direct control of a meagre purse, in the meantime, while reinforcing the umbilical link with government through the vague notion of accountability, will not help anybody except ministers.

Audi, a distinguished ex-administrator of Islington's Almeida Theatre, looks very inexperienced when it comes to tackling one of

Verdi's more sprawling operas: *Jerusalem*, like *Trovatore*, is in four acts and eight scenes. The Toulouse act was incoherent — and coherence is top priority with an opera as unfamiliar as this. Thereafter he relied heavily on the Grand Theatre's revolve, kept almost constantly on the move, and the symbolism of the Cross and the Book, the latter presumably being the Bible or the Koran, according to which side you are on.

But the production, which is intended to be Teutonic-severe, with the shadows of Peter Stein playing a prominent role, is apt to fall into ludicrous excesses.

Ensemble work and confident conducting are the strongest points of an enterprising British Verdi premiere

## To be a pilgrim is not enough

## OPERA

John Higgins  
Jérusalem  
Grand Theatre, Leeds

FIRST, the encouraging signs. Paul Daniel is Musical Director-elect of Opera North and on Saturday night he conducted as though he were already seated in the chair: immediate response from the orchestra, having one of their best nights, and a notable control of everything on stage, including the chorus which had a stirring night as well.

The opera, in its British premiere, was Verdi's *Jérusalem*. It was Verdi's first commission for Paris, in 1847, and being short of time he decided to re-work an earlier piece, *I Lombardi*. There were precedents for such a short cut, including some from Rossini himself.

Verdi stuck with the subject of the liberation of Jerusalem by the Crusaders in the 11th century. But he touched his forelock to his French employers by asking his new librettists, Royer and Vaez, who had recently provided the words for Donizetti's *La Favorite*, to switch the opening act from Lombardy to Toulouse. There is a certain amount of mayhem goes on, including attempted murder, before everyone sets off for the Holy Land.

At the Paris Opera in 1848 Massimo Bogiancino staged a season of "Paris versions" of operas better known in other incarnations. There, as in Leeds, *Jerusalem* was stripped of its ballet, but the producer Jean-Marie Simon did not make much of a case for *Jerusalem* supplanting *Lombardi*. The same could be said of Pierre Audi in Leeds.

Audi, a distinguished ex-administrator of Islington's Almeida Theatre, looks very inexperienced when it comes to tackling one of



Shadowed challenges: a scene from Pierre Audi's production of Verdi's *Jérusalem* for Opera North, now at the Grand Theatre, Leeds

Verdi's more sprawling operas: *Jerusalem*, like *Trovatore*, is in four acts and eight scenes. The Toulouse act was incoherent — and coherence is top priority with an opera as unfamiliar as this. Thereafter he relied heavily on the Grand Theatre's revolve, kept almost constantly on the move, and the symbolism of the Cross and the Book, the latter presumably being the Bible or the Koran, according to which side you are on.

But the production, which is intended to be Teutonic-severe, with the shadows of Peter Stein playing a prominent role, is apt to fall into ludicrous excesses.

Several of these are provided by the costume designer, Jorge Jira, who dresses the much put-upon hero Gaston in a crumpled white suit. The villain, Roger, who tries to avenge his crimes by becoming a Holy Land hermit, wears a tight-fitting Chairman Mao jacket. A chorus of Palestine hours were decked in gold-lamé and black wigs, while the crusaders had keeper's protective gear.

Arthur Davies as Gaston was at his best in the great aria, and in Act II, "Je veux encore entendre" — true Verdi line here. But even he could not cope with the *Scène de la Dégradation*, where Gaston is stripped of rank and

title. Here he was asked to swing a corpse, later dismembered, over his head.

Janice Cairns as Hélène was also stripped, down to her bodice, for the brief opening love scene.

The role probably lies a bit high

for her and the voice went through an acid patch in the Polonaise — perhaps she knew the hours were waiting. She showed at her best in the swaying ensembles in which the opera abounds.

José Garcia, heard here in *Showboat*, also seemed somewhat miscast as Roger, the hermit-villain. The voice has plenty of darkness, but all too often produced a gurgling sound instead of

the true bass-baritone Verdi demanded. Seccor performances came from Keith Latham's Count of Toulouse, who spends most of the opera in a wheelchair, and Christopher Ventris as the Papal Legate, principal accuser of Gaston, who literally fingers him with a papier-mâché digit on the end of a pole.

No, the chief pleasure of the evening, sung in a sort of French

are from Paul Daniel, the orchestra and chorus. *Jerusalem* is above all a choral work, with pilgrims and infidels challenging one another. But it does need a helping hand from God; Allah or the producer to make it viable.

## Common-sense coward

THEATRE  
Benedict Nightingale

All's Well  
That Ends Well  
Barbican

IT IS the sort of platitude one expects from a Shakespearean character with a non-name. "The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together," opines First Lord, only to vanish a few lines later. Yet his truism has the heart of *All's Well*, showing why we nervously call it a "problem play" and, in particular, what worries us about its male lead.

Dr Johnson famously pronounced Bertram a cowardly pup. First, he feebly consents to the French King's demand that he marry Helene, the amateur physician whose medieval antibiotics have cured the royal fistula. Then he deserts her with all the cruelty he can muster. He cuts, struts and fibs, and yet ends up being, in Johnson's magisterial sneer, "dismissed to happiness". Even today we prefer a successful hero to be an Orlando, Ferdinand, or Petruchio,

good blokes all; not a caddish Bertram.

One of the merits of Barry Kyle's intelligent if unexciting production is that it effectively gives Bertram the mixed-yarn defence. As played by Paul Venables, he is a bashful, unimaginative fellow who wants no more than the other bloods of his class and age: to wear a blue-gold uniform and ride to glory. Why should he not resent being the figure the King puts on the cheque when he pays his doctor's bill? Can he really be blamed for becoming vindictive when he sees his future ruined by female conniving and royal decree?

At worst his Bertram is ordinary and immature. To emphasize this, Kyle furnishes his childhood home with a rocking horse, and in his next scene transforms this into an unconventional receptacle for the swords of officers whose training consists of fencing before huge mirrors. Like them, Bertram is not bad, not good, just going through a callow, narcissistic, toy-soldier phase. Maybe he makes a more plausible hero than one whose moral yarn is perfect.

Anyway, the result is a play about growing up: a process whose



Moving: Paul Venables (left) reconciled with Patricia Kerrigan

key event is the unmasking of the braggart Parolles, played by Bruce Alexander as a pub bore with a tendency to dress like a cockatoo, and sound like a road drill. Once Bertram has seen through this false friend, his eyes can focus on his true one, who is of course his abandoned wife, Patricia Kerrigan: an tough-minded, tough-hearted Helene.

The production has not the energy or invention of the Victorian-era *All's Well* Trevor Nunn gave us in 1983. Kerrigan has not the passion of Harriet Walter, nor Venables the dash of Mike Gwilym, nor Gwen Watford brought to the role of Bertram's mother. Yet their triple reconciliation struck me as almost more moving.

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## Restoring his faith in humanity

Jeremy Kingston

Figaro Gets Divorced  
Gate Theatre Club

pleasure lies in the answers it gives to the frivolous question: what happened next? So it is good to know that while Almaviva — a grand bulldog performance from Richard Mayes — fails foul of the law, he copes remarkably well

with poverty. It is another nice touch to bring on Herr von Cherubin as a Mexican band-leader type.

Where Horváth creates his own characters, he has a manner of letting their importance steal upon you. Christine Drummond's brusque Midwife, for instance, identified only by her profession, begins as an eccentric before we grasp that her humanity at least is not to be doubted.

The play follows the misadventures of the characters from the opera, Almaviva and the Count, Figaro and Susanna, when the Revolution drives them from their country, though Horváth sets their story in the 1930s to point his argument that the first victim of any revolution is man's humanity.

Like *The Marriage of Figaro*, it is a play about master and servants and the complications caused by

manages to suggest a great party rollicking along off-stage by means of an open door, an angle of the light and varying sound levels of the play and laughter.

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In this case the latter complications are explored through Figaro's refusal to give Susanna a child. Why bring a child into a world that has no future? Thus the movement of the play is towards Figaro's recovery of his faith in the world and hence his humanity.

Inevitably, part of the play's

pleasure lies in the answers it gives to the frivolous question: what happened next? So it is good to know that while Almaviva — a grand bulldog performance from Richard Mayes — fails foul of the law, he copes remarkably well

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Where Horváth creates his own characters, he has a manner of letting their importance steal upon you. Christine Drummond's brusque Midwife, for instance, identified only by her profession, begins as an eccentric before we grasp that her humanity at least is not to be doubted.

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Like *The Marriage of Figaro*, it is a play about master and servants and the complications caused by

manages to suggest a great party rollicking along off-stage by means of an open door, an angle of the light and varying sound levels of the play and laughter.

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In this case the latter complications are explored through Figaro's refusal to give Susanna a child. Why bring a child into a world that has no future? Thus the movement of the play is towards Figaro's recovery of his faith in the world and hence his humanity.

Inevitably, part of the play's

## Ad libs, plugs and good clean soap-opera fun

## TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

AT A time when, last night's welcome return of *Blackadder* apart, the best television comedy is coming from its commercials, and sometimes unintentionally at that, the idea of a whole social history of Britain through its screen advertising is a brilliant one. Nicholas Barker's *Washers Whiter* opened on BBC 2 with "She's not a moron, she's your wife". David Ogilvy's celebrated admission to his account executives 30 years ago, and then considered the role of the trapped woman desperately fighting genes as if they were Germans in order to keep her old wartime feelings of usefulness alive through a mind-numbing period when the definition of female guilt was failure

to send your husband out to work on a cornflakes breakfast.

Admen talked meaningfully of the "symbolic psychological underpinning of whiteness commercials", but what we really got here was the evocation of a whole lost world in which lavatories could not be shown on camera before nine o'clock in the evening and Orson Welles was the voice of *Napoleon* was brought back to screen life. Davis has been writing scores for classic and long lost Chaplin, Keaton and Gish films.

But some formats never change: Oxo's Katie may have had to have been moved to the country in order to avoid uneasy upper-class overtones, but the "Two Tarts in the Kitchen", adspoke for the dialogue between the knowing neighbour and the dumb mother with the working brand of detergent, looks safe into the next century. Lavatory warfare is as potent as ever: one lady refuses even now to have a cup of tea with

her neighbours until she has inspected the state of their bathroom rims.

The *South Bank Show* (ITV) added the composer Carl Davis, who has, along with Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, invented a totally new form of cinema, that of the restored and newly orchestrated silent. In the 1920s, Daniel Wiles' *Napoleon* was brought back to screen life. Davis has been writing scores for classic and long lost Chaplin, Keaton and Gish films.

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her neighbours until she has inspected the state of their bathroom

Broadcast formidably at the end of the major Thames sequence of Stalin documentaries, this was a drama loosely based on the true story of Nikolai Buldakov, the revolutionary theorist who gave his life at a show trial to save those of his wife and son. Ten years on, Williams took up the story of the boy at an orphanage and cross-cut it with what had happened during the Stalinist purges.

But the true star here was Freddie Jones, as the old schoolmaster who befriends the child and tries to bring him to some understanding of the horrendous betrayals that were innate in Stalin's notion of fatherhood for all his people. It was an award-winning performance by Freddie Jones.

This season's very hit-and-miss

*Screen Two* series (BBC 2) came up with a real winner in Nigel Williams' *Kremlin Farewell*.

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*Screen Two*



Uncomfortable: Sophie Birdwood, feeling the tension

## Lord Byron and the lady

An art exhibition based on Byron's travels includes the work of a countess

**S**ophie Birdwood believes in suffering for her art. The pregnant Countess of Woolton purposely sat on the most uncomfortable stool she could find as she painted landmarks in the life of Lord Byron for an art exhibition which opens tomorrow, two weeks before the expected birth of her first child.

"The more relaxed I am the worse I paint," she says. "You need a certain tension which you only get from being not quite comfortable. If you're not relaxed you get sloppy."

Lady Woolton is one of a number of artistic young aristocrats (the Marquess of Salisbury's daughter, Lady Rose Cecil, for example, has concentrated on the less romantic subject of London's Docklands) who are determined to make their mark.

She is one of 15 international painters invited to "follow in Lord Byron's footsteps from Siztra to Missolonghi" for an exhibition at the Francis Kyle Gallery in London. "I chose only British locations (from Aberdeen to Cambridge) because I'm a pragmatist," she says.

Lady Woolton is the daughter of Lord Birdwood and great grand-daughter of the First World War field marshal. She was Deb of the Year in 1982, and the following year was erroneously linked with Prince Andrew.

But any royal link sticks, and Lady Woolton — the wife of Simon, Earl of Woolton, with homes in London and Scotland — knows she will always bear the "former royal girlfriend" label. You don't handle the *News of the World* account for Saatchi and Saatchi — as Lady Woolton did after having followed her father into advertising — without learning that much.

She senses that somehow she has an even greater barrier to being taken seriously than the average debutante who dabbles in art. "I try to make the best of a bad job and hope that eventually I will be recognized for my creativity.

"It annoys me when people think my painting is only a hobby — it's something of an obsession. I used to feel more recreational about it, but now it's a job. I quit Saatchi to devote myself full-time to painting and I work very intensively — often for 12 hours a day. I sometimes do my best work finishing something off at one or two in the morning."

She is aware that her schedule may have to give way to the demands of a new baby, so

Alexandra King

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## Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is only one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help — spiritual, emotional, social and practical.

And we are there, ready to give all the help we can, in all parts of the world. To give this help we depend entirely upon voluntary contributions. Please help us to continue the work we can do.

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## PREVIEW

TODAY Art &amp; Auctions

● TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

## ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

## NEW IN LONDON

**ALL THE VISIBLE WORLD:** More than 100 oils and watercolours by 15 painters who have followed in Lord Byron's footsteps from Newcastle Abbey to Mississauga, Canada. Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (01-499 8870). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, free, until April 26. From Tues.

**THE ALLIED NAVIES AT WAR 1939-45:** Detailed paintings by ten British artists, such as Montague Dawson, in which British warships, all guns blazing, engage the enemy in 'Boy's Own' style. M.R. Onslow Gallery, 6 Duke Street, SW1 (01-839 8223). Mon-Fri 9.30am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until April 26. From Tues.

**E.J. PEPLOE (1871-1935):** Drawings by a member of the currently fashionable and bankable Scottish Colourists group of painters, who introduced Colour space and Post-Impressionist colour into Scottish art. The Scottish Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (01-287 2121). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until April 26. From Wed.

**ANNE DOWKER:** A first one-person show in London of paintings, drawings and etchings by an artist whose figurative studies betray the same interest in painting the spirit of things as did Bonnard and some of his pupils and immediate followers. Art Space Gallery, 15 Peter's Street, N1 (01-539 7002). Tues-Sat 2-7pm, free, until May 2. From Tues.

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LETTER:** Twentieth century British calligraphy, with examples from Eric Gill and Edward Johnston. Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, SW1 (01-930 4811). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 20. From Wed.

**PRINTS BY HOYLAND:** Works from 1968-89 by a leading abstract painter who has continued, since his early experiments with lithography, to make various types of prints.

Austin Osman Fine Art, 15 Bloomsbury Square, WC1 (01-242 4443). Mon-Fri 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-2.30pm, free, until April 26. From Wed.

**MERVYN PEAKE (see picture below):** Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (01-735 8822). Daily 10am-6pm, 2.30pm (less Fridays), until May 27. From Fri.

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**CHRISTIAN BOLTMANSKI:** A retrospective for a French installation and construction artist whose works reflect on memories of childhood and notions of death. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (01-871 0701). Tues-Sun 11am-5pm, free, until June 3. From Fri.

**OUTSIDE LONDON**

**OCTOGENARIAN ART:** Sculpture and paintings by Quentin Bell, sculptor of artist Vanessa and 'significant form' critic Clive, who has remarked about his own work that it is 'between the lines of Paradise'.

Charleston Farmhouse, Frieze, Lewes (032 83265). Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun 2-5pm, £3 (22p cones), until April 29. From Fri.

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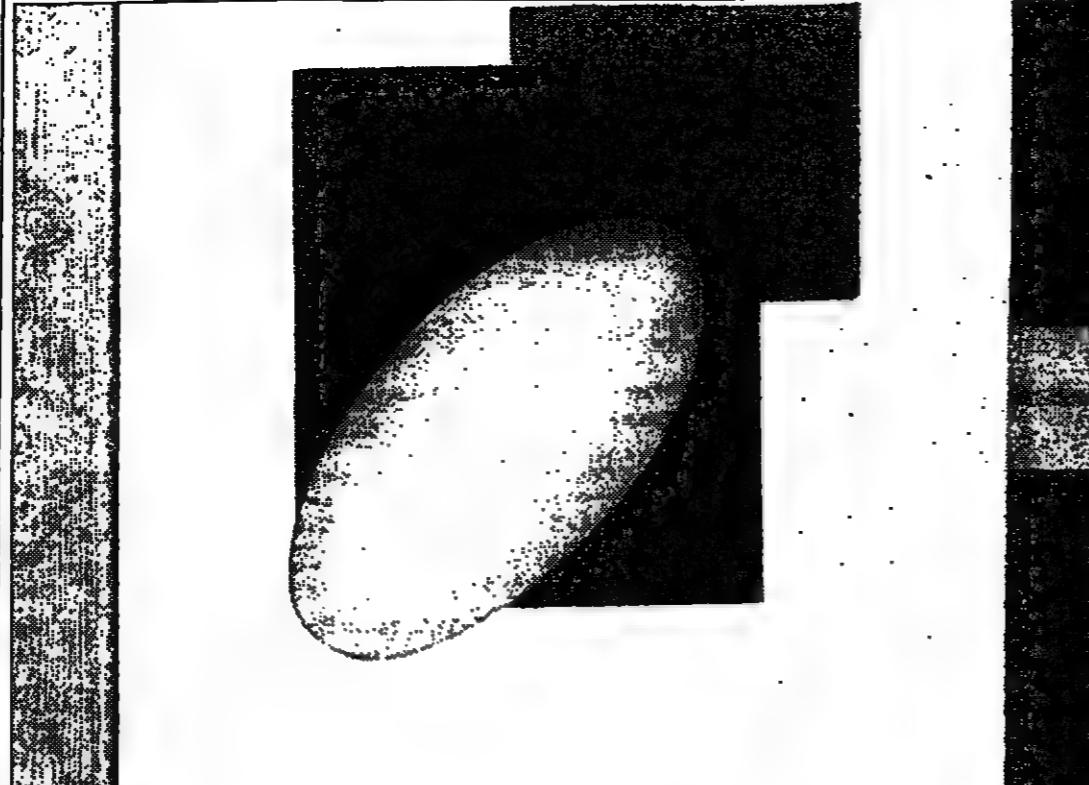
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## Soviet objects and images



From the George Costakis collection, "Suprematism" by Ivan Klima (c.1917), estimated to reach £200,000

8.45pm-7pm, tomorrow and Wed. SATINWOOD: Good satinwood furniture is increasingly popular and a 19th-century bookcase with Neo-Classical touches could go higher than its £2,500-£3,500 estimate. There is also a striking Edwardian mahogany and polychrome painted kidney-shaped dressing table at £21,500-£22,000. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-628 6622). Viewing today, Sun 4pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

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DECORATIVE ARTS: A wide range of decorative arts (material from most of the principal movements from 1850 to the present with the emphasis on early 20th-century ceramics. Seventy-odd lots of Cluny Ceramics, 22 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-561 7671). Viewing, Wed 2-5pm, Thurs 3am-5pm. Sale, Thurs 10am-1pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

EAST ANGLIA: Cobham and Seago feature strongly in a mixed sale of regional pictures at The Athenaeum, Bury St Edmunds, first of a series. But look for William Fraser Garden's "Hemming Mill on the River Cuse", 10% inches by 15 inches, a lovely placid watercolour from 1911 (2800-£1,200).

Phillips, Dover House, Ipswich (0473 540684). Viewing, tomorrow and Wed 10am-7.30pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

MAHOGANY: Several good pieces here, suitable for small rooms. George III serpentine front chest 3 feet 7 inches wide, 1 foot 9 inches deep, available from the same region, 2 foot 3 inches wide, and a George III writing table, 3 feet wide, 1 foot 8 inches deep, £100-£120. Henry Spincer & Sons, 20 The Square, Retford, Nottinghamshire (0777 700533). Sale, today 11am.

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ANTIQUE HUNTING AT KIMBOLTON CASTLE: More than 100 stands in the stately rooms of Kimbolton Castle near Huntingdon in a two-day antiques fair next weekend, just off the A45 in North Cambridgehire. Crown Estate, Cambridge (0223 330165). Open Sat, Sun 10am-5pm.

LOCK TO LEOMINSTER: Good ceramic section in this two-day, 1,100-lot sale of general effects. Satsuma, Delph, Imari and 18th-century blue and white.

Russell Baldwin & Bright, The Fine Arts Sale Room, Ryelands Road, Leominster, Herefordshire (0568 212019). Viewing, today 10am-4pm. Sale, Thurs 10am-5pm.

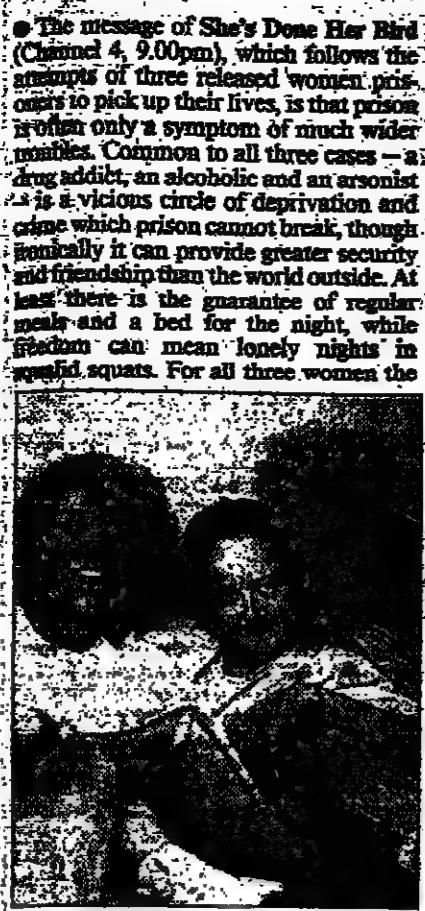
HOUSE SALE: Partial contents of Tormarton Court, Tormarton, near

## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Stephanie Billen

## Struggle to free the spirit

Peter Waymark



Jail-bird: Michelle (centre) says goodbye to inmates (C4, 9.00pm)

problems are worse now than when they went in. Watching this compassionate but unmetamorphic documentary it is only too easy to believe that one in three women are back in prison within three years of their release.

• Michael Barnes' *Horizon* film, rescreened last night, warned 20 years ago that the San Francisco authorities were neglecting seismic safety. In 'The Quake of '89 - The Last Warning?' (BBC2, 8.10pm) he returns to the subject and it seems that despite the events of last October, which killed 67 people and left 10,000 homeless, nothing much has changed. The predictions of scientists are still falling on the deaf ears of politicians, now concerned with trimming budgets rather than making the city safe against the new earthquakes that are bound to come. Grim disaster scenarios are preceded by a vivid reminder of the 1989 quake and an extensive post-mortem in which it is revealed that the fire department was so short of equipment that it had to call on a couple of tenders from its museum.

• While *Catfish* (Channel 4, 10.00pm), a solid Spanish contribution to the Eurosport series, does what *The Bill* proudly boasts of never doing and mixes professional and private lives, Inspector Crepo works in the Madrid drug squad. His son died from taking drugs; the boy's godfather is later murdered by traffickers, and if the inspector does not move fast, there could be a third death.

• A rest for the gentle pleasures of *Countdown* means a new series of Channel 4's other ratings-boosting quiz, *Point-to-One* (4.30pm). For the uninitiated, the show works like a shooting gallery in which the contestants are picked off by the quick-fire questions of the introvert host, William G. Stewart, who must be home at the end of it.

## 11.35 Weather

## RADIO 1

**FM Stereo and AM**  
Baton on the half-hour from 7.00am until 10.00am, then at 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00, 31.00, 32.00, 33.00, 34.00, 35.00, 36.00, 37.00, 38.00, 39.00, 40.00, 41.00, 42.00, 43.00, 44.00, 45.00, 46.00, 47.00, 48.00, 49.00, 50.00, 51.00, 52.00, 53.00, 54.00, 55.00, 56.00, 57.00, 58.00, 59.00, 60.00, 61.00, 62.00, 63.00, 64.00, 65.00, 66.00, 67.00, 68.00, 69.00, 70.00, 71.00, 72.00, 73.00, 74.00, 75.00, 76.00, 77.00, 78.00, 79.00, 80.00, 81.00, 82.00, 83.00, 84.00, 85.00, 86.00, 87.00, 88.00, 89.00, 90.00, 91.00, 92.00, 93.00, 94.00, 95.00, 96.00, 97.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00, 101.00, 102.00, 103.00, 104.00, 105.00, 106.00, 107.00, 108.00, 109.00, 110.00, 111.00, 112.00, 113.00, 114.00, 115.00, 116.00, 117.00, 118.00, 119.00, 120.00, 121.00, 122.00, 123.00, 124.00, 125.00, 126.00, 127.00, 128.00, 129.00, 130.00, 131.00, 132.00, 133.00, 134.00, 135.00, 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Executive Editor  
 David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar  
 1.6480 (+0.0430)  
 W German mark  
 2.7786 (+0.0367)  
 Exchange index  
 87.9 (+1.8)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
 1785.7 (-26.4)  
 FT-SE 100  
 2247.9 (-36.0)  
 USM (Datstream)  
 142.18 (-0.36)

EC ministers and bankers in Ireland

Irish see  
 a softer  
 line by  
 Major

From Our Own  
 Correspondent

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers claim they may be winning Britain round to their view of economic and monetary union after detecting a new conciliatory tone from Mr John Major, the Chancellor.

Mr Major begged to differ, while conceding: "there may be a different tone, but the substance has not changed." Britain remained "not remotely persuaded" that the three-stage road to EMU, widely endorsed by EC governments, would produce a flexible and democratically answerable system capable of curbing inflation.

His Irish hosts nonetheless spoke enthusiastically of "a considerable degree of agreement on the design of a future economic and monetary union" after the talks, held together with the governors of the 12 central banks.

A statement issued by the Irish presidency of the EC said there was now broad support for the creation of a federally structured central banking system, which would be answerable to politicians.

This would remove a considerable though undefined portion of sovereignty from the Bank of England and its 11 EC equivalents.

But Mr Major reiterated Britain's scepticism over a central banking system, and dismissed calls for strict sanctions against high-spending governments under a future monetary union.

With varying degrees of cautiousness, the Germans, Dutch, Italians and Irish all said they sensed a change in Britain's low stand against the consensus on EMU.

The Chancellor denied that Britain's entry into the ERM had even been raised, but he softened Mrs Thatcher's defiant rhetoric by conceding that fewer obstacles besides the Britain's high inflation rate now remain.

Britain wants France and Italy to remove capital controls, Germany and others to open their financial services market and all EC governments to stop bailing out inefficient industries. Mr Major implied these conditions are now being met.

## Rey and Cabra Estates likely to link

By Matthew Bond

THE partnership between Mr Werner Rey, the Swiss businessman, and Cabra Estates, the quoted British property company, is likely to become more formalized. Negotiations are thought to be nearing a conclusion that could see Mr Rey acquiring as much as 29 per cent of Cabra. Both parties are interested in developing the entire

## Bundesbank calls for 2:1 ostmark rate

From Peter Guilford, Ashford Castle, County Mayo

THE Bundesbank is proposing a two-to-one exchange rate for ostmarks, with a concessionary one-to-one rate for the first DM2,000 of every East German citizen's savings.

Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, confirmed during talks between European Community finance ministers and central bank governors that his bank and its affiliated regional banks in Germany have formally endorsed the proposals.

In a defiant message aimed partly at Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who advocates greater concessions on the German currency question, Herr Pöhl said: "It would be good to introduce a little expertise and realistic economics into this debate."

A straight one-to-one rate between the two currencies would be "totally unacceptable," he said after the late-night talks ended.

Economic analysis had shown that East German companies, heavily indebted to the national bank, would be unable to repay loans if the swap were at one-to-one and workers could end up unemployed.

Herr Pöhl also expressed a

certain optimism that the announcement, leaked to the German press last week, might serve to strengthen the European Monetary System today.

The Bundesbank president is clearly concerned to dampen speculation that too generous an exchange rate between the two German currencies might fuel inflation and upset the EMS.

The crucial support of the Bonn coalition government for the planned exchange rates is far from assured. But Herr Theo Waigel, the federal finance minister, said after the talks that it was "economically realistic and reasonable," adding that Bonn "could not avoid the report" in which the plans are laid out.

Dr Waigel's cautious support is itself a step forward, as he heads the Christian Socialists from Bavaria, who are affiliated to the Chancellor's Christian Democrats in the coalition.

By granting equal parity to the first 2,000 ostmarks of each East German citizen's savings, Herr Pöhl estimates East German spending power would increase by DM32 billion (DM2,000 per head of population in the German Democratic Republic).

Herr Pöhl would give an indica-

tion of the initial inflationary impact of German currency union on a united Germany. This impact would soon be offset by a rise in productivity, he believed.

Defending the new rate, Herr Pöhl said the ostmark "wasn't even worth 50 pfennigs," and that the move amounted not to a devaluation but to a re-evaluation. Recent estimates put the effective going rate between the two currencies at one to five.

The normal two-to-one exchange rate will stand for all other money in the GDR. The Bundesbank president added that East German pensioners would have their pensions calculated at 70 per cent of their previous salaries.

● News of the two-to-one swap plan, which had leaked on Friday in West Germany, has caused a furore on both sides of the German border where speculation had been growing that Bonn would offer the more favourable one-for-one rate. The ostmark is worth 20 per cent of the Deutsche mark on the black market.

● SOFIA

Bulgaria is devaluing the leva against the dollar to below the unofficial rate, effectively killing the black market. (Reuters)

## Sterling faces more fire

By Colin Narbrough

THE apparent victory of the independent Bundesbank's monetary caution over Bonn's politically motivated preference for a one-for-one conversion of ostmarks to Deutsche marks is likely to boost West German markets today and could put the pound under more pressure.

The mark could strengthen within the European Monetary System when markets reopen but it is too early to tell if it will take upward pressure off interest rates. Fears of the inflationary impact of Ger-

many monetary union have contributed to higher interest rates in Europe, with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank of England governor, saying last week that the world could be entering into a new phase of higher rates.

The West German markets were already picking up at the end of last week, buoyed by the European Commission's forecast of 4.5 per cent growth in West Germany this year and 5 per cent next.

Average bond yields fell 10 basis points to 8.73 per cent

between Thursday and the end of the week, while the DAX index of leading West German shares rose 14.66 on Friday to 1,968.55. The mark was little changed on Friday, closing 0.60 pfennig firmer than the pound at DM2.7786.

Herr Pöhl has made clear

that he has to accept the political imperatives behind monetary and economic integration of the two Germanies, but that the Bundesbank will not abandon its prime task of monetary stability.

Mr Broome, who improved his financial position with the sale last week of Alton Towers to Pearson for £60 million, may now be able to press ahead alone with a proposed £229 million leisure complex. However, he has acknowledged that the power station will need a further £50 million spending on it before work can even begin.

After the Pearson sale, Mr

Broome said a co-ordinated development of the site was in the interest of all concerned.

"What would be wrong is for Park to develop its site in isolation and for us to develop our site in isolation." He confirmed that he would be seeking a partner to develop the land around the power station. Mr Broome did not rule out the possibility of further talks with Mr Rey.

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Mr Rey and Cabra have contemplated joining forces to acquire the entire Battersea power station site, ownership of which is currently split by a railway line. To one side lies the power station and 20 acres of land owned by Mr John Broome's Alton Group, while to the other lies 14 acres owned by Park Securities, Mr Rey's private company.

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Lump-sum payment from pension fund said to approach £1m

## Birch eyes record golden handshake

By Our City Staff

THE former chairman of Ward White, Mr Philip Birch, who is hoping to negotiate his way into the record books with the warmest golden handshake in British corporate history, has already received a payment said to be approaching £1 million after his departure from the board.

The payment was made by the pension fund, rather than by Boots, which took over Ward White last year. Mr Birch was just into minimum pensionable age when he was shown the door by Boots, and he took a portion of his pension as a lump sum. He is now drawing his six-figure pension, built up over 19 years.

Birch is entitled to two-thirds of 1 per cent of the amount by which profits exceed a 10 per cent return on net tangible assets. It sounds complicated and does not sound a lot, but it could have presented Mr Birch with an annual pay cheque of £1 million by the mid-nineties.

The eventual settlement is likely to be in the £3 million to £5 million range, which would set a British record. Mr Birch has now turned his attention to how to deal with the dissident shareholders of Aquascutum. He is to be joined on the board by Sir Peter Carey, the former permanent secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The pension payment will not form part of the golden handshake from Boots, which is alarmed at the size of the payment claimed, and even more alarmed at a back-of-the-envelope calculation which could, in theory, drive compensation towards £15 million.

Mr Birch conducted Ward White

behind the safety barrier of a five-year rolling contract under which he received a salary of just above £15,000 plus incentive payments related to the company's performance. It is the incentive element which is causing the headache, for to arrive at a final payment it is necessary to estimate five years ahead, not only profits but also capital employed. Mr

## Swedes to bid £500m for LET

By Our City Staff

THE chairman of London & Edinburgh Trust, Mr John Beckwith, and his brother Peter, vice-chairman, could make more than £40 million each from the sale of their 24 per cent stake to SPP, Sweden's largest life insurance and pension company.

Assuming no regulatory hiccups, SPP will today launch a bid worth almost £500 million for the development company. An offer worth 220p a share would value LET's ordinary equity at about £410 million, but separate offers for the preference shares plus the likelihood of a second interim dividend should take the total value to more than £490 million.

LET shares closed on Friday at 175p and the bid will be recommended by the board.

The company is expected to keep one London quote, with no offer expected for one class of its three preference share issues, a move aimed at facilitating future fund raising.

LET is SPP's fourth big venture into the international property market since the Swedish authorities relaxed their controls on overseas investment.

Last year, SPP took 18.5 per cent in a new company led by Volvo to use the car maker's extensive property interests as the basis for a potential £2 billion property fund to be invested throughout the world. Wasa, the stock market favourite to buy LET, also participated in the venture.

In February this year, SPP invested about £250 million in a \$2 billion dollar fund set up by Prudential Assurance of America to invest in landmark buildings.

SPP already has a substantial presence in London. With another Scandinavian group, NCC Property, SPP is spending £200 million developing 650,000 sq ft of offices in the East India Docks.



Millionaire stakes: Peter Beckwith, vice-chairman, left, and his brother John, chairman

## Bernerds take stake to 80%

By Our City Staff

THE family stake in Mr Elliott Bernerd's private company, Chelsfield, has been increased from 50 per cent to 80 per cent, according to the latest offer document from Pall Mall Properties, the 50-50 joint venture between Chelsfield and P&O.

Pall Mall last week increased its hostile bid for Laing Properties to £490 million, raising its cash offer to 725p per ordinary share. The bid was also made final.

Mr Brian Chilver, Laing chairman, believes Mr Bernerd's increased stake shows he believes Pall Mall is on to a good deal. Mr Chilver will tell Laing shareholders the new offer is still at a 20 per cent discount to the 910p net asset value in Laing's defence document. He will urge shareholders to reject the bid.

Pall Mall now has 30.2 per cent of Laing and is expected to seek meetings with family and charitable trusts that between them own about 38 per cent.

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 LESS TO  
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TOURIST RATES	
Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell
2.02	2.02
Australia \$	20.25 19.15
Austria Sch	60.60 59.70
Belgium Fr	1.984 1.924
Canada \$	1.955 1.925
Denmark Kr	11.25 11.45
France Fr	6.97 6.91
Germany Dm	2.7786 2.7208
Iceland Kr	13.45 12.56
Ireland P	2.145 2.015
Italy Lira	2.015 1.975
Japan Yen	3.28 3.08</td

TEMPUS

# Glaxo fire casts a shadow over SB

WHAT a difference a day makes. Almost three weeks ago, SmithKline Beecham's Mr Bob Baumann presented profits at the lower end of expectations and left analysts with some nagging doubts.

Just 24 hours later, up popped another American, Dr Ernest Mario, now running the rival Glaxo group. Mario's upbeat delivery of excellent profits and positive news on Glaxo's emerging drugs portfolio lit a fire under his share price. The contrast between the two presentations was no help to SB's.

In a few days, Glaxo shares were 85p to the good at 821p while SmithKline Beecham's were down 45p to 485p. The market action contains some important signals for both sets of shareholders.

The negative sentiment surrounding SB will be tested on Wednesday at what should be a significant gathering of analysts to hear a company review of the products in its research and development pipeline.

As things stand, most of the growth in the next year or two will be driven by the antibiotic Augmentin. The future for SB's other leading products, including its best-seller Tagamet, the ulcer treatment, is clouded by well-aimed uncertainties about the short unexpired patent lives. The heart drug Erimine, for which there were high hopes, now appears to face increased competition from rivals.

SB will hopefully be identifying the key areas of its R&D spend and those which will be put on the back burner. But ahead of the meeting, there are no great expectations that rabbits will be pulled from hats in the shape of new products.

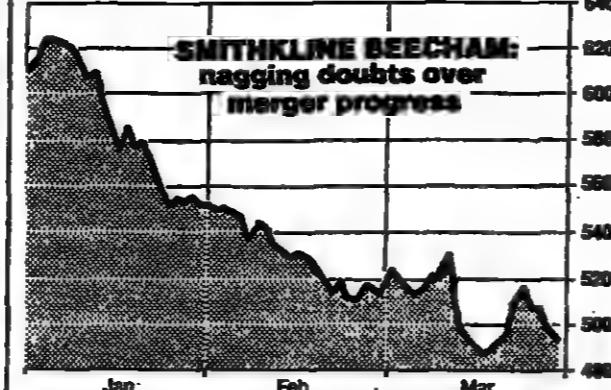
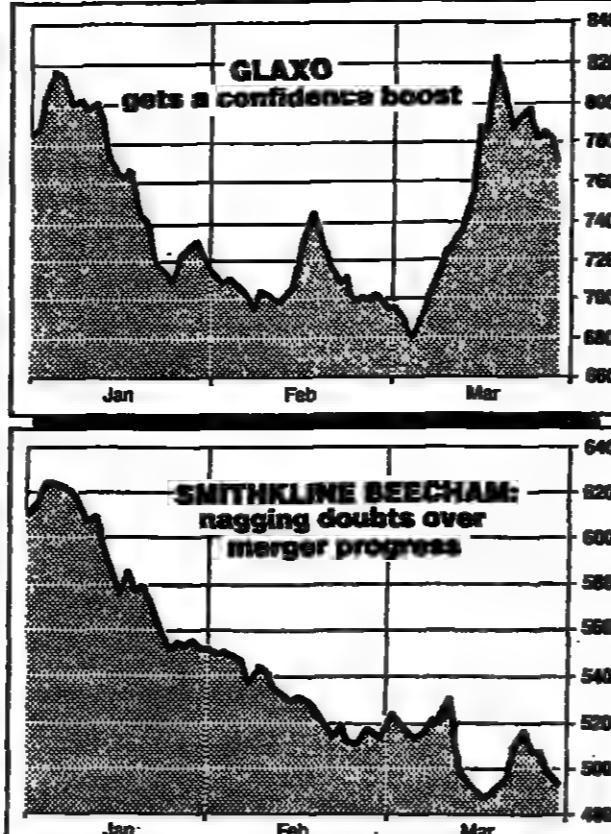
SB insists that its merger is proceeding according to plan. But evidence is sorely needed on progress on the much-delayed cosmetics sale, for example.

Baumann and his board have opted for a root and branch appraisal of all parts of the group on a "can we justify this" basis. The approach is more painstaking than a quick fix from speedy disposals and closures. But the size of the restructuring provision, a cool £500 million, is a clear indication that sweeping reforms will emerge — eventually.

SB shares are still attractive, perhaps even oversold at current levels. But investors have



Upbeat: Ernest Mario of Glaxo



Test: Bob Baumann of SB

a choice between the lower-rated SB, where most of the 1.5 per cent annual growth will come from restructuring, and Glaxo, whose somewhat faster progress is underpinned by strong performance from its new product portfolio. Glaxo's is exceptionally strong while SB's is uncertain.

SB's A shares sell for about 12 times earnings, against Glaxo's on a 13.5 p/e, adjusted for different year-ends. The premium looks justified.

## T&N

SO many industrialists complain that the City prevents them from taking a long-term view that it is refreshing to come across a company which seems completely impervious to the pressure to perform in the short term. After failing to deliver any growth at all since its bitterly contested takeover of AE in 1986, T&N has embarked on a \$190 million bid for a US component maker, JP Industries, which will ensure a further two years of flat or declining earnings per share.

T&N sees JP Industries as "an ideal fit" because it makes

engine bearings, pistons, gaskets and camshafts, a mirror of T&N's European car parts operations.

Actually, JP Industries has been cobbled together relatively recently from businesses cast off by US corporations. Readers with long memories will recall that its camshaft, machining subsidiary, Weyburn Engineering, was a stock market shooting star over here until its acquisition by Carboreum in 1977.

Mr Colin Hope, T&N's chairman, is keen for its tender offer to succeed, because the acquisition of JP Industries will give it critical mass in the US. This will enable it to take advantage of the trend for the car giants such as GM, Ford and, increasingly, Toyota and Nissan to source components on a worldwide basis.

However, two-fifths of JP Industries' £230 million turnover is in engine bearings and more than half its sales are to the aftermarket rather than for new cars. Mr Hope, who used to work for Dunlop, is familiar with what happens to demand when parts last longer and do not have to be replaced as

frequently. Bearings sales in the US aftermarket are growing at less than 2 per cent a year.

At the expense of further underperformance in its share price, T&N will get away the £127 million two-stage rights issue to finance the deal. That will leave the shares at 171p on a prospective p/e ratio of 7, assuming profits of £105 million and unchanged earnings of 24p in 1990. At least the silver lining of T&N's asbestos connection that few predators will touch it.

## Property shares

SOMETHING rather curious has happened in the property sector. The world has not ended.

In fact, there are growing signs that many companies could weather the storm, a fact that will confound those responsible for the shares in some companies sitting on a discount to assets approaching 50 per cent.

There are signs that the good — or less bad — news is beginning to outweigh the

truly awful.

There was no shortage of the truly awful variety last week. Citygrove's restatement of its 1988 profits, whereby pre-tax profits of £5.5 million suddenly became £1.64 million, will take a lot of beating and confirmed the pain now being felt in the retail park sector.

There is also a steady trickle of provisions, which need to be watched closely. Frogmore's provision of £3.4 million was largely taken against a Shaftesbury Avenue office building bought only six months earlier for about £18 million, the latest pointer to the fact that the over-heated West End market might be cooling uncomfortably quickly.

With interest write-offs at London & Metropolitan and the delay of figures from debt-ridden Priest Maritime, there is clearly no room for complacency.

But the quiet groundswell of better news is there, and growing. It started a few weeks ago when Waters, which specialises in supposedly one of the worst-hit sectors, City offices, reported a growth in net assets per share. —

engine room of the property sector — of 13 per cent. There was relief when Capital & Counties followed this up with an 8 per cent improvement.

Ten days ago, there was incredulity when Laing Properties unveiled a 31 per cent improvement in net asset value as part of its defence against the bid from P&O and Chelfield. But since then there has been a 21 per cent increase from Slough (including a 17 per cent growth in the value of its British industrial portfolio), and increases in the 22-32 per cent range from the respected smaller companies of Clayform, Derwent Valley and Capital & Regional.

All these revaluations have come from companies with prudent management, who would acknowledge that yields have slipped — in some regions and sectors dramatically.

These revaluations do not have to be carried out again until the end of this year, by which time even the pessimists believe interest rates could finally be going down.

It could be the right time to buy selectively.

Edited by John Bell

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## GILT-EDGED

### Outlook review brings foreign factors in focus

The gilt market's experience in January showed that the British market cannot "buck the trend" of government bond markets elsewhere. The domestic outlook was quite positive — underlying inflation was leveling off, the current account deficit declining and sterling recovering from its low. And yet, despite outperforming all other leading government bond markets, gilt investors suffered capital losses.

This episode neatly illustrated the increasingly international nature of large institutional bond portfolios. A profitable reading of the gilt outlook now requires greater attention to the wider picture.

Reports from Tokyo speak of Japanese life insurers (with overseas assets of about £110 billion) doubling their weighting in Europe. Naturally, the figures are rough and ready but this could mean new investment funds of, say, £15 billion for European assets.

Only a fraction, may come into gilts but it portrays a new attitude. On a broader scale, Japanese balance-of-payments statistics show investment in foreign bonds growing from \$73 billion in 1987 to \$94 billion in 1989.

In Britain, pension funds apparently lowered their holdings of British and overseas fixed income securities from 11 per cent at the beginning of 1988 to 7 per cent at end-1989.

The interesting change, though, was that overseas bonds comprised 3 per cent of total portfolios (and about 40 per cent of bond holdings) on December 31, 1989, compared with nil two years earlier.

In America, the use of international (non-US dollar) bond portfolios to spread risk is gaining acceptance. Taking

course: 10-year Bund yields at about 8.5 per cent seem good value.

Furthermore, both French and Dutch government bonds look cheap relative to fundamentals, with less risk. Both countries are committed to strong currency policies and have better inflation prospects than Germany. Neither country has the risks presently associated with inflation, the budget deficit or the political scene in Germany. Yield spreads have narrowed over Bunds but there may be further to go.

The outlook for JGBs depends heavily upon the yen. Last year, there were strong fundamental reasons for the yen's decline. Although market sentiment has weighed heavily against the Japanese currency (and may continue to do so), the fundamentals seem nothing like as bearish as they were and may even be turning slowly positive. A yen rebound would almost certainly entail a drop in JGB yields.

Taking account solely of the changes in yields overseas from January 1 to last week, our model predicted a rise of 140 basis points in gilt yields. The actual rise was 200 basis points. Thus, it seems that only 60 basis points of the increase can be attributed to domestic as opposed to international influences.

Given the importance of overseas markets for gilts, we need to examine where those markets are going. The most encouraging news may come from Europe. We believe the inflationary impact of German unification may have been overstated.

First, extra East German workers may lessen the chances of sustained upward pressure on wages.

Second, a strong mark means competition from cheap imports will limit the scope for price rises.

There is undoubtedly a political risk premium built into Bund yields at present, but that may fade in due

## Corona for European listings

By Colin Campbell  
Mining Correspondent

CORONA Corporation, the Canadian mining group with interests in 11 North American gold mines, will shortly list its shares on seven European stock exchanges.

The decision to list on — among others — the Paris, Zurich, Frankfurt and Brussels stock exchanges recognises that at least 30 per cent of Corona's equity is held by various European investors.

However, Corona said it was not applying for a London listing because of the cost involved.

London-based investors were in any case well-versed in how to trade in Corona shares, it added.

In an investment presentation to London mining analysts, Corona said the re-sale life of its principal one bodies was at least 20 years, and that it was one of the lowest-cost gold miners in North America.

It suggested the average cost of producing one ounce of gold at Corona would be \$210 an ounce from an expected 1990 gold and gold equivalent production of 690,000 ounces.

It noted the recent fall in the world gold price, but said that even at \$300 an ounce 80 per cent of its interests would still be economic. At \$286, 68 per cent of its operations would still make money.

By comparison, at a \$300 world gold price only 72 per cent of Western gold production would be economic, while at \$200 only 30 per cent of non-Communist production would be viable.

Corona recently won a legal battle against Lac Minerals, the Canadian mining group, for ownership of the Williams gold mine in Ontario. It is also investigating properties in Greenland.

Corona's A shares traded at \$394 each on Friday.

• The information on all the prices can be obtained by dialling the following telephone numbers:

THE TIMES  
STOCK WATCH  
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• The Stockwatch service gives readers of The Times instant telephone access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds.

• Telephone calls are charged at 58p per minute peak and 25p standard, including value-added tax.

Peckham Building Society  
INVESTMENT INTEREST RATE INCREASE 1st April 1990

With effect from 1st April, Peckham Building Society has increased the interest rates payable on some investment accounts as follows:

ACCOUNT TYPE	NET CONFIDENTIAL RATE	GROSS CONFIDENTIAL RATE	NET C.A.R. HALF-ANNUALLY	NET C.A.R. MONTHLY
PLATINUM PORTFOLIO	11.88	14.68	11.28	11.32
ON-RENTAL SAVINGSCHEM	14.88	16.98	14.48	14.52
SUPERSCHEM (2000 SCHEMES)	11.78	13.88	11.48	11.52

ALL OTHER INVESTMENT RATES REMAIN UNCHANGED  
Equivalent to basic rate tax-free.  
Compounded annual rate if interest added to the account.  
Peckham Building Society — yearly or monthly

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# Firms criticized for not revealing debt impact

By Alastair Fairley

COMPANIES raising finance by issuing complex financial instruments are failing to disclose the impact of the securities in their reports to shareholders, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has said.

Its annual survey of British financial reporting practice, the ICA monitored the annual reports of more than 200 large and medium-sized listed and unlisted companies.

But despite the billions of pounds raised on the securities markets by companies issuing such instruments as deep-discounted bonds, convertible preference shares, synthetic convertibles and perpetuals, an alarming lack of disclosure of the impact of the instruments on present and future profits has been found.

Only 4 per cent reported to

shareholders that a complex capital-raising issue had taken place. The report does not reveal how many of these have actually raised finance via complex securities.

But despite the impact many of the instruments can have on companies' future profits, the ICA only found one company in every 100 actually disclosing the impact that paying interest on the security has had, or will have in future years, on its income.

Criticizing the lack of disclosure, Mr David Tonkin, one of the authors, has called for the Accounting Standards Committee to tighten up the regulations.

The report singles out a number of companies which have raised finance by issuing complex securities. Even in the companies where some

evidence of complex securities issues has been found, none of the companies tells its shareholders what the economic impact of the securities is on the company's profits.

Kingfisher, for example, discloses it has nearly £34 million of deep-discounted debt (in the form of zero coupon loan stock) on its books. But details of the final liability to the company of the stock — more than £225 million — are only provided to shareholders by way of a note, with no data on how the final liability has been calculated. In addition, no separate disclosure is made of the effect on the company's income servicing the paper has.

Likewise, Ultramar, which has £65.1 million and 19.379 million pesos (£109 million) outstanding in low-interest,

foreign currency loans on its books. The company discloses the final liability amounts, but the cost of the long term debt is not disclosed separately.

The report also exposes inconsistent accounting treatment by British & Commonwealth wealth for its redeemable preference shares. Some — more than £1.49 million worth — are incorporated directly into the balance sheet at its full terminal liability cost. A second issue of shares — nearly 52 million 10p shares in all — is only incorporated into the balance sheet at some £5.2 million, even though the final liability to the company could be as high as £240 million.

*Finance Reporting 1989-90*, code 3990, £42.50, Chartac Books, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2LX.

## Tilbury in line for £36m deals

DES JENSON



In the picture: One of the eight Royal Scotsman carriages being refitted by Tilbury to form a luxury train

TIILBURY is set to announce £36 million of new contracts, including a £721,000 deal, won by its specialist shopping division, to fit out eight carriages that will carry passengers on the Royal Scotsman, now a luxury touring train (Matthew Bond wrote).

The biggest is a £4.5 million deal won by the process pipe-work division for the Thorp

reporting its full-time profits. Last September Tilbury escaped the clutches of Lilley with the help of a spectacular forecast that it would make not less than £27 million in the year to December, an 84 per cent increase on 1988.

Tilbury would have been obliged to issue a warning if it was going to fail to make that forecast. It has not done so. This week Tilbury will be

reporting its full-time profits. Last September Tilbury escaped the clutches of Lilley with the help of a spectacular forecast that it would make not less than £27 million in the year to December, an 84 per cent increase on 1988.

Tilbury has a good relationship with Holzmann and would not have been unhappy with it as a large shareholder. But Holzmann and Lilley failed to agree terms.

## Texon buy renews old UMG link

By Our City Staff

A link that dates to 1899 has been re-established by UMG, the holding company for British United Shoe Machinery, which was bought out from the US adhesive group, Embart, two years ago. UMG is paying \$125 million to Black & Decker Corporation for Texon Footwear Materials, a shoe-component manufacturer.

British United Shoe Machinery is the UK arm of the American group, United Shoe Machinery, from the turn of the century until it was acquired by Embart in 1976. It shared its Leicester site with two of Texon's UK operations, which stayed with Embart until the company was taken over by Black & Decker 18 months ago.

Finance for the acquisition, which will double UMG's sales to £200 million, was arranged by the US bank, Bankers Trust, which also backed its £80 million buyout from Embart. The purchase will give it plants in the US, Germany, Italy, Taiwan and the UK.

## Yeoman likely to sue Warburg

By Jeremy Andrews

CLF Yeoman, the Irish equipment and vehicle lessor, is expected to issue writs today against SG Warburg in connection with the £88 million purchase of Combined Lease Finance, the British car-leasing company, in December 1976.

This means that interest is not subject to tax in Ireland and is treated as dividend income in the hands of the lending bank.

Until now, such dividends have also been covered by double taxation treaties and not taxed in the hands of the recipient.

However, the authorities in Luxembourg, one of the main sources of such finance, have been reviewing the matter.

When its shares returned from suspension in January, CLF Yeoman said that the tax treatment which applied to its existing Luxembourg financing would continue until December 1994, and that arrangements had been agreed which meant it would be possible for Yeoman to enter new transactions with its Luxembourg bankers on a cost-efficient basis.

## S&P gives societies A1 rating

By Our City Staff

Standard & Poor's, the US credit rating agency, gives Britain's building societies a clean bill of health despite the challenges of deregulation and a stagnant housing market.

The agency gives all seven large societies covered in its survey at least A1 ratings for their short-term debt. The biggest society, the Halifax, is also accorded an AA rating for its long-term borrowings.

An article in S&P's journal, *Creditweek International*, cites several factors for their stability.

It points out that loans are secured against high quality assets and that despite increased mortgage arrears the societies are cushioned by past rises in house prices and conservative lending policies.

Closer ties with insurance companies have increased commission income, while computerization has minimized costs.

The societies covered by the survey are Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Halifax, Leeds Permanent, National & Provincial and Woolwich.

European media players tune in to battle for new franchises

## Switching on to ITV channels

By Melinda Wittstock

THIRTY European media players have announced their desire to grab a slice of Britain's independent television industry when the franchises come up for renewal from 1993.

Silvio Berlusconi, Europe's second largest media baron, who owns TV stations in Italy, Germany, France, Spain and Yugoslavia, is one. Another is CLT, the Luxembourg-based company which owns Radio Luxembourg, has a stake in RTL-Plus, the satellite TV station, and is considered in the running for the 56.5 per cent stake in Thames Television, which is up for sale.

Other would-be players include Bertelsmann, the German media company; Bonnier, the Scandinavian publishing group, which said it wants to invest £80 million in British television; Hachette and Havas of France; VNU of Holland; RCS of Italy; and Espana de Spain.

But any American or Australian media company, whose appetite for British television franchises was whet by the

decision, last week, of Thorn EMI and BET to sell their combined stake in Thames, may as well go on a diet.

Although the Independent Broadcasting Authority's position on the proposed disposal is far from certain, the Broadcasting Bill will bar all non-European Community investors from taking stakes in the ITV companies above 4.9 per cent and prevent them from exercising voting rights on more than 1 per cent.

Analysts expect the Bill, which comes in July, to allow European investors to take stakes of at least 25 per cent in ITV companies. But some uncertainty remains over whether they will be allowed to bid for a controlling stake.

The IBA will not be drawn on what criteria it will apply to the sale of the Thames stake, saying it will wait for a "concrete proposal" from BET and Thorn EMI, which in turn say they plan to wait for guidance from the IBA before formal talks with prospective buyers.

"The IBA is very nervous about the whole subject of ownership and takeovers but it doesn't have predetermined views," said Mr Chris Akers, a television

analyst, with CitiCorp Scrimgeour Vickers. "It's likely they would accept a friendly takeover, even from a EC media company, if they believe it would enhance an ITV company before the franchise round, which begins with applications and bids in March, 1991."

It is thought, however, that the IBA would prefer that the 56.5 per cent is placed with a number of investors so as to avoid a full bid for Thames.

Both Thorn and BET say if they can't get a "sensible price" before the present franchise agreements run out at the end of 1991, they will stick with Thames through the bidding process.

Royal assent of the Broadcasting Bill may provoke a round of takeovers before the franchises are awarded. "Bidders could sit on the fence and wait until they see who's won the franchises, but once those franchises are awarded, the share prices will move up very fast," said Mr Akers.

There may well be a moratorium on takeovers in the year after the results of the franchise auction and their start-date on January 1 1993.

## Ratner's voucher scheme success

By Gillian Bowditch

H Samuel, the Ratner subsidiary which distributed 102,000 £50 vouchers to customers who spent more than £150 just before Christmas, has had almost 60 per cent of them redeemed since the redemption period began in February.

The vouchers are valid until October, a traditionally quiet period for the jewellery business.

Mr Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive, says the discount offered is, in fact, nearer 10 per cent than 33 per cent as the average transaction for which the vouchers qualified was £200. The average purchase with a voucher is £70.

Ratner, whose new finance director, Mr Gary O'Brien, starts today, will announce final results on April 26. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the year of about £108 million, plus property profits of roughly £13 million, against £13 million, against £21 million last time.

Although this year may be tougher than last, sales in Britain are believed to be rising more than 20 per cent. Sales in the US are believed to be flat. In Britain, Ratner is attacking Argos's market share in jewellery and aims to raise its share of the jewellery market to 50 per cent. Some observers believe Argos's share of the jewellery market may have fallen by 1 per cent last year.

Ratner shares have fallen from more than 270p at the end of last year to about 240p, partly as a result of fears that the group would diversify after news leaked that it had been considering a bid for Dixons, the electrical retailer.

**Pathé chief sentenced**  
Naples — Giancarlo Parretti, head of the US Pathé Communications Corporation, has been sentenced to nearly four years in jail, in his absence, for fraudulent bankruptcy, Ansa, the Italian news agency said.

Ansa said the charges related to a Naples newspaper chain owned by Parretti which folded in 1981 after two years of operation. He is likely to appeal. (Reuters)

## ECONOMIC VIEW

## Bank seeks shiny new measure of money

The Bank of England is going around asking people what money is.

The question is not quite as bizarre as it sounds. Every time financial institutions bring out new savings schemes, the boundary between different definitions of money is liable to shift, requiring new thought about what exactly constitutes money.

Since the Budget, the Bank has brought out *Monetary Aggregates in a Changing Environment: a Statistical Discussion Paper*, which proposes changing some definitions of the money supply and reviews alternatives.

Given the place of monetary policy in the Government's economic firmament, this is important. Market participants and others are invited to comment by the end of next month.

Some of the Bank's proposals are likely to meet with widespread assent. The introduction of interest-bearing current accounts by the big banks during the past year means that non-interest bearing M1 (NIB-M1) has dwindled in size and significance.

The importance of NIB-M1 was that it helped to separate out money held to spend from money held to save — spending money being the more important item from the point of view of inflationary potential. But people are using these interest-bearing accounts just like other current accounts to finance their daily transactions, so the connection between NIB-M1 and transactions money has all but vanished.

The Bank proposes to cease publishing NIB-M1 as a separate aggregate though it will go on publishing the components.

The Bank also proposes to make some small changes in the definition of M2, which was invented in 1982 in another attempt to find a transactions measure of money. The idea is to align the components of M2 so that they are also included in M4. This will make the data easier to collect. More important, it will turn M2 into a kind of "retail M4" so that the relationship between the two aggregates will be more informative than in the past.

At the far end of the spectrum, the case for continuing to publish M5 is arguably slight. With the exception of the period between 1978 and 1980 when the "corset" was constraining the growth of bank deposits, expansion in M5 has been almost indistinguishable from that of M4.

Indeed, changes in last year's Budget have encouraged the creation of sub-

stitutes for bank deposits in the void beyond the present monetary Pluto of the system. Perhaps these should also be tracked.

The Bank's solution is to stop publishing M5 as such but to go on producing the building blocks for several broad measures of money so that analysts can construct bespoke measures of money for themselves. The principle of encouraging an intellectual market in monetary aggregates so that we can all play at being the Bank of England seems a good one. We might even achieve a net increase in collective wisdom.

However, one cannot be entirely satisfied with the approach adopted by the Bank's paper. Described as statistical, it examines the borderlines between the aggregates from a statistical point of view. Yet ultimately the choice of aggregates should be based not only on statistical purity and practical convenience but on economic relevance.

This becomes particularly important in the discussion of Divisia indices. A Divisia index is a method of combining several different measures of money weighted according to their "moneyness." The idea is to use the rate of interest paid on monetary instruments as a measure of whether the balances are being held primarily for spending or for saving.

The Bank points to a number of problems with Divisia indices. For instance, a downward sloping yield curve would appear to be giving the wrong signals. The growth in interest-bearing current accounts, which are close substitutes for non-interest bearing accounts, could lead to a Divisia measure to under-estimate the growth of transactions money. The Bank concludes that "despite their theoretical interest, there seem to be significant problems with the construction and interpretation of Divisia money indices."

Some of these problems may have technical solutions. But the most important question has not been asked. Can an index of this kind be constructed which is a superior measure of monetary conditions and a good predictor of inflation?

Some, including Peter Spencer of Salcarson Lehmann, will claim it can. Others say it cannot. But if it can provide useful information about the economy, then nobody should be put off by statistical messiness. The debate should not stop with the Bank of England's paper.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end April 6. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

No. Company Group Date or  
last  
Price Divs Gdns De  
Change Div  
Date  
P/E

No.	Company	Group	Date or last Price	Divs	Gdns	De Change	Div Date	P/E
1	American	Chemicals, Pts	125	1.00	0.00	-0.10	125	7.1
2	Dr Morgan	Property	100	0.00	0.00	-0.05	100	5.5
3	Vibes & Butes	Transport	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
4	Crystite	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
5	Wates	Property	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
6	Rowthorne	Industrials L/R	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
7	Argent	Industrials L/R	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
8	Black (ARC)	Newspapers, Pub	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
9	Reuben	Industrials L/R	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
10	Preston	Building Roads	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
11	Br Land (sa)	Property	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
12	Treford Park	Property	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
13	Boddington	Breweries	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
14	Crycote	Property	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
15	Prowess	Building Roads	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
16	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building Roads	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
17	Rutgers Group	Drapery, Stores	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
18	Harrison Ind	Building Roads	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
19	Maxwell (Crown (sa))	Newspapers, Pub	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
20	P-E International	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
21	RNB Res	Paper, Print, Adv	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
22	Fitch Lovell	Foods	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
23	Menex	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
24	HCC (sa)	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
25	Lcp	Transport	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
26	Microfilm Repro	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
27	Lon Ind	Industrials L/R	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
28	Kohl Save	Foods	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
29	Regalton	Property	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
30	Atwood	Building Roads	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
31	Wair	Industrials S-Z	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
32	Life Sciences	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
33	Stirling Ind	Industrials S-Z	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
34	Yates	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
35	Tennant	Electricals	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
36	Docus	Industrials A-D	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
37	By Aerospace (sa)	Motors, Aircraft	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
38	Transair FT (sa)	Hotels, Cafeterias	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
39	Fisher (A)	Foods	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
40	BTP	Chemicals, Pts	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
41	Rockware	Industrials L/R	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
42	Branshaw	Industrials A-D	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
43	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
44	Undare	Industrials S-Z	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Total	125	0.00	0.00	-0.05	125	5.5

Please take into account any minus signs

## Weekly Dividend

No.	Times	Div	Price	Change	Div	Price	Change	Div	Price
1	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
2	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
3	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
4	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
5	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
6	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
7	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
8	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
9	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
10	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
11	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
12	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
13	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
14	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
15	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
16	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
17	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
18	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
19	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
20	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
21	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
22	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
23	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
24	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
25	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
26	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
27	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
28	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
29	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
30	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
31	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
32	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
33	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
34	Times	1.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125	-0.05	0.00	125
35	Times	1.00	125	-0.05					

# Out to enjoy the new age of action

Health, fitness and excitement are very much on today's agenda

**A** spirit of adventure is in tune with the optimistic mood of the new decade. While televised spectator sports will continue to attract millions, in the next few years increasing numbers of otherwise ordinary people will put themselves centre-stage in pursuit of sport, health, fitness — and excitement.

Adventure is now a saleable product as people realize there is more to life than reading about it. The range of adventure pursuits is growing each year and old sports are getting a new twist.

Ballooning, gliding, hang-gliding, microlight-flying, paragliding, parascending, white-water rafting, wet-biking, jet skiing, hovering, power-boating, wind-surfing, rock-climbing, mountaineering, bobbing, cave-diving, pot-holing, skiing, walking and orienteering have all grown out of relative obscurity.

The taste for adventure can be satisfied on one of the increasing number of activity holidays. These offer adults and children a wide range of opportunities — from abseiling to water skiing — to get to grips with something new.

Adventure activities are also available at one of Britain's many theme parks, such as Thorpe Park and Alton Towers.

While the pursuit of excitement is the reason most people take up an adventure activity, the real gain is often the sport's contribution to mental and physical well-being. This makes the almost inevitable muscular pain, sprains, strains and bruises worthwhile.

The quality of life is enhanced by regular exercise. Unfortunately, many forms of exercise can be boring. But if an adventure pursuit is made an integral part of a personal fitness programme, the pursuit of health and happiness is easier to sustain and more enjoyable.



Team spirit: tracking down opponents, dressed in battle fatigues and armed with paint guns, is one way companies have found to encourage teamwork.



## Blow up your boss

### How sport helps companies work off aggression

**Z**apping the boss with a paint gun is a large part of the appeal of adventure games, according to Nick Squire, who runs the Campaign company's eight-acre woodland "battleground" with its M'A'S'H-style camp, at Egham, Surrey.

The basic game, which lasts half an hour, pits two teams

against each other in a marked-out area of woodland.

Each team has base camp

with a flag and the objective

is to capture the opposing team's

flag and return to base. The

game has five rules enforced

by marshals.

To help achieve their objective, participants are armed

with paint-marking CO2 pistols

with a range of up to 30yds. When players are hit by the paint, they are out of

the game.

Mr Squire says: "There will

be different strategies and

ideas from each team. One

team might attack from one

side while the other tries

steaking around the back. We

run the games as corporate

entertainment or as a sport or

fun-day."

"Companies use our facil-

ties to entertain their clients,

as an incentive for staff or

employees as a day out for their

employees."

"Adventure games offer a

bit of healthy competition

between company departments

or branches or between the

company and its clients. It is a

harmless hit of stress relief

and a chance to work together

as a team. Winning or losing is

not really important."

"Some companies have the

idea that it is good for lower

management staff to be able to

shoot the boss. It is good for

everyone to be in the thick of it

together."

"We get a lot of computer

businesses worried that there

is not enough teamwork in the

firm," says Mr Gill.

He denies that the games

have much to do with the sort

of activities to be found in

army selection procedures.

"It is much more light-

hearted," he says. "It is played

as a laugh and not taken all

that seriously. One should not

have any great ideas about it.

Some people think you can use

it as leadership training."

"I think it could be, but we

do not run it like that."

Campaign's clients range

from the local supermarket to

city firms. Charges range from

£20 to £50 a day for each

person and the company

claims that about 75 per cent

of participants return for

more."

"The average age range is

20-35, but we are not a yuppie

sport," Mr Squire says.

Firms such as Business Pursuits, which organizes promotional, incentive and entertainment events for the corporate market, find that adventure is good business.

Sam Gill, managing director of Business Pursuits, says: "We help to generate sales and improve client relationships for our corporate clients. We also organize events for staff to reward performance. It is an incentive if they know about it in advance and it is a reward if they do not."

"We also do staff entertainment days when we just take everyone for a good day out. This is important in generating staff loyalty because the cost of recruiting replacement staff in the South-East is high."

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## FOCUS

## ADVENTURE PURSUITS

## Current affairs

No pollution, no noise, just the pleasures of pure flight

Unlike many sports, gliding is as good as it looks. Natural forces keep the glider moving in a world where the only noise is that of the breeze. It is a pollution-free pursuit — highly visible, but totally silent. Nothing could be "greener".

At 3,500 ft, you are monarch of all you survey, but there is no time to sit and stare. "Reading" the wind, you exploit every opportunity afforded by nature to go upwards and onwards.

According to the British Gliding Association, the principles of gliding are very simple. "A glider is nothing more or less than a refined paper dart," an official says.

Fortunately, however, the pilot remains in control and the aircraft can be turned and height gained, provided the pilot finds some air rising faster than the glider is going down. In absolutely still air, of course, the glide path would remain downwards. The skill of the pilot lies in finding the up-currents that will allow him to prolong his flight.

At the Lasham gliding centre, near Alton, in Hampshire, there is a logbook full of lengthy cross-country flights. Mike Carr, one of Lasham's senior pilots, recalls a colleague who set off one morning and flew to Durham Cathedral and back in a day. Mr Carr, who started gliding



We'll have lift-off: trainer Nigel Pringle (rear) calms beginner Julian Richardson

in 1954, full of childhood memories of wartime aerial combat over Southampton, thinks that he does it for "the sheer adventure — every flight is an adventure".

"It is an expensive sport in terms of time, but so flexible that you can make of it whatever you want to. Some people will glide locally, never going out of reach of Lasham; others will want to do cross-country flying."

"You get a terrific sense of achievement. Whatever pressure you have in your work or your domestic situation goes out of the window as you

concentrate on flying that aircraft. You have to be constantly on the alert; you cannot just switch off."

Phil Phillips, the general manager of the Lasham centre, from where about 10 per cent of all the gliding activity in the country begins, says: "When a person is hooked on gliding he or she never, ever, gives it up. The training period can be difficult, but after that there are only two things that make someone give up gliding: dying or becoming incapacitated."

Gliding is not a cheap

hobby, yet it attracts followers from all social and economic classes. A glider costs about £2,000, although at Lasham some models cost more than £40,000.

Fortunately, gliding is easy to sample. Most gliding clubs will arrange a no-obligation trial flight. Details of local clubs can be obtained from the British Gliding Association (0533 531051). At Lasham (025683 270/322) such an experience can be had for less than £25. Mr Phillips recommends taking a trial flight mid-week, otherwise it means a long wait.

## Ready to ride the wild waves

THE adventure begins when it is "blowing a hoolie". That is a high wind to those uninitiated in the ways of the fast-growing watersport of windsurfing. Skill and a good wind took Mark Tuckwood, of Whitstable, Kent, from a standing start up to 30mph — and the title of joint holder of the UK speed record — on a two-man board.

Windsurfing — also known as sailboarding and sailboarding — is said to have 250,000 participants throughout Britain, many of them

finding the cost of their sport as appealing as its thrills.

Windsurfing is probably the cheapest way of getting afloat under sail, either inland or offshore. The initial outlay is modest and one's learning curve can rise rapidly during an introductory six-hour course, although learning how to harness and control the wind skilfully takes time. A humiliation many novices suffer is to get lost in the sheer delight of effortlessly sailing away from the shore, only to find they cannot get back.

A beginner's budget could start at £200 and run up to £1,750. The biggest expense will be the board, which, fully rigged, can cost from £100 secondhand to £1,300 for the newest model. Lessons, wetsuit, boots or beach shoes, buoyancy aid or harness and a car roof rack can be found, new or secondhand, for between £100 and £500.

Once kitted out, the would-be sailboarder can work through getting "smashed" — falling off and being smothered by a breaking wave — to

the skill and thrill of "wave jumping", where the rider becomes airborne.

Mr Tuckwood says: "Windsurfing is not easy. I would not recommend it to non-swimmers, but it is enough to able-bodied."

Windsurfers' stomachs, arms, legs, thighs and buttocks will all benefit from the regular exercise.

Once kitted out, the would-be sailboarder can work through getting "smashed" — falling off and being smothered by a breaking wave — to



Wave jumping: the windsurfer becomes airborne in search of more and more thrills



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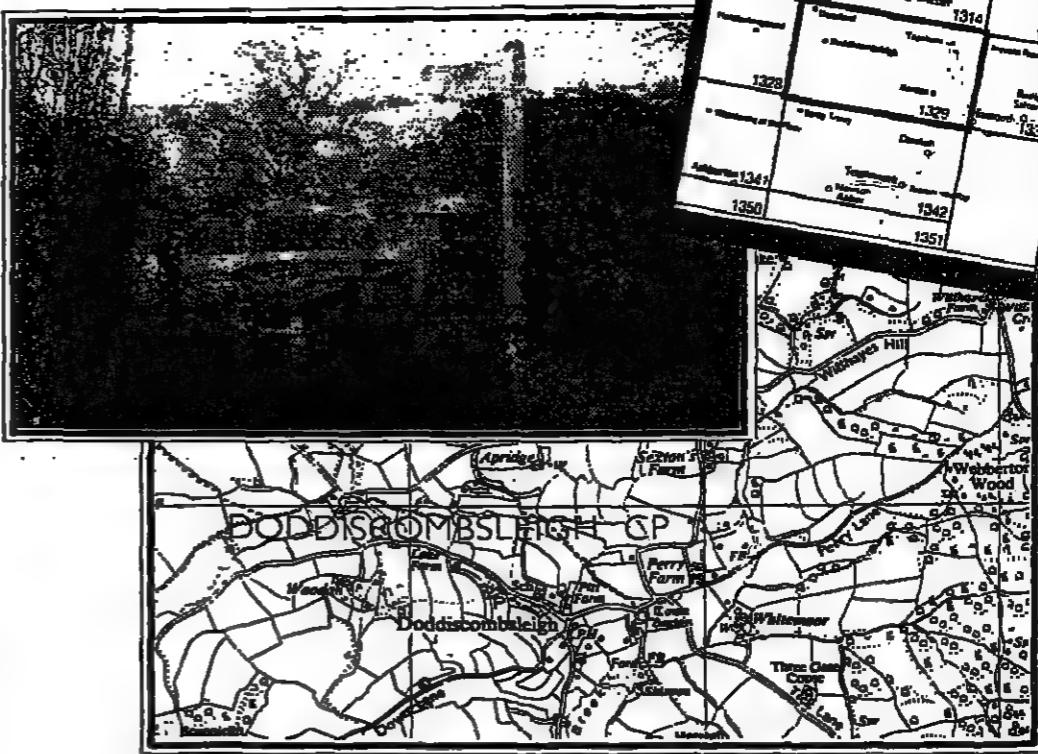
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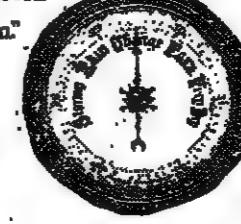
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## Family Division

## Law Report April 2 1990

## Cleveland guidelines to be followed

In re E (a Minor)

Before Mr Justice Scott Baker (Judgment March 27) The full *Cleveland Report* should be the required reading of all social workers, doctors, police officers and other involved in an investigation of whether small children had been sexually abused.

The guidelines in Chapter 12, headed "Listening to the child", should be followed. Children of tender years should be listened to but not every detail of a young child's story was to be taken literally.

The early introduction of sexually explicit dolls to the child at an early stage of investigation should be avoided.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so stated in a chambers judgment in the Family Division, reported with his Lordship's consent on discharging a wardship order relating to E, born on July 2, 1985, on being satisfied that his parents had not subjected him or other children to sexually inappropriate behaviour either as a participant or as a witness.

The parents were loving caring parents and it was in the boy's best interests to live with them unsupervised.

Mr Jeremy Posnansky for the local authority: Mr Nicholas Wall QC, Miss Florence Baron and Miss Jennifer Roberts for the parents.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the case was concerned with events in the summer of 1989. E and his parents, who were not married, lived on a housing estate in a Midlands town. Three other families lived on the same estate and each family had a small boy.

E was friendly with D, aged four, Z, aged four and R who was only three. D, Z and E had made statements that E's parents were sexually abusing E or that E was a witness to sexually inappropriate behaviour by his parents.

The central question in the case was whether any of the children had been, buggered or subjected to other inappropriate behaviour by the parents. E had always lived with his parents but the father spent week-ends at home and was in London during the week.

The children attended the same play school and D, Z and R visited E's home. D was a frequent visitor; Z a less frequent and R a still less frequent visitor.

E's parents were unconventional and were open about nudity and sexual matters within the family.

On August 3, D stayed the night at E's home. E's mother was there but the father was in London. On the evening of August 8, the mother of D heard a rumour of inappropriate sexual behaviour at E's house.

The next day D told his mother about sexual activity at E's home involving himself, E and his parents. D's mother telephoned Z's mother.

Social workers had been informed and D had been interviewed by a social worker, Mrs M, and later by two women police officers whom he made feel disconcerted. On August 10, Z was seen by Mrs M, another social worker and two police officers and made no disclosures.

Later D and Z were examined by Dr P, a police surgeon who found no evidence that D had been abused but found "clear evidence of recent penetration (of the back) (age) possibly with a penis" in Z.

On August 11 the parents were arrested, held in custody overnight and released on bail the next day. Both parents denied all the allegations of sexual abuse. E's mother had been arrested in the West Country at her parents' home. E was examined by a legal doctor who found no signs of injury.

At the instigation of the plainfiff's local authority the local authority in the West Country obtained a place of safety order relating to E and afterwards E had lived with his maternal grandparents.

On August 18, E was made a ward of court by the plainfiffs. On August 21, following a discussion with Z's mother, R's mother questioned R about events at E's home. R made no disclosures but his mother told the police.

The next day R was interviewed and seemed to describe sexual abuse by the father's brother against E in the presence of E's parents. On September 1, E's parents answered to their bail and were informed that no charges would be brought. No case was placed on the child protection register.

His Lordship said that he had been in mind that everything the four children had said had been in out of court statements. He had had the opportunity of seeing video recordings of four interviews with Z.

Great caution was necessary in evaluating the weight to be attached to the children's evidence. He bore in mind that all the children were of very tender years and that where a child had been interviewed more than once, second and subsequent interviews were of diminishing value.

Great care had to be taken when assessing the reliability of adults reporting the words of children. One had to look at the climate in which the children made their statements, to consider the children's behaviour, the consistency of the accounts and then to look for reliable independent evidence to corroborate what the children had said.

Dr P was a general practitioner in the town and had been on the local panel of police surgeons since 1987. He admitted with candour that he had no training in the physical examination of children suspected of being the victims of sexual abuse.

However, at the conclusion of his cross-examination Dr P said

that he thought it was unsafe to place any reliance on his findings with regard to Z and now doubted whether Z had been buggered. He had not read the *Cleveland Report*.

His Lordship found that Dr P was totally inexperienced and had only a very limited opportunity of examining the relevant area and was unable to interpret the police's evidence.

The police were involved because of the criminal investigation. It was desirable to have cooperation between the local authority and the police.

The interviewing of young children was a more skilful and sophisticated exercise than either the police officers or the social workers appreciated in the present case. The *Cleveland Report* stated that "Any interviewer in this delicate field must, however, be experienced and skilled in interviewing children".

The appropriate standard was not used in the present case. It was not part of the social services department's job to obtain further disclosures in order to support a prosecution.

Z had been seen on seven occasions by Mr W, a child protection officer employed by the National Society for the Protection of Children. He took the view that a young child said things then they must be true.

His Lordship was considering E's future. E was a well-adjusted happy child and doing well at school. There was nothing emanating from E to suggest that he had been abused by his parents.

The only evidence that he was at the risk of being abused by his parents came from uncorroborated hearsay evidence of little child. That evidence was weak.

The evidence of the mothers of D and Z as to the earliest disclosure was unreliable. His Lordship was not confident that they had reported accurately the accounts or behaviour of their children.

All three children had been influenced by the climate in which they made their disclosures. The interviews with the children were deficient because inadequate records were kept, anatomically correct dolls were used, inappropriately, leading questions were asked and from the start the interviewers were convinced that the children had been abused.

It was plain that some of the things said by the children were without doubt, fiction. There were inconsistencies in the accounts of the children.

Each child's behaviour during the summer of 1989 was inconsistent with the truth of the disclosures. E had never made a complaint about anything, nothing had happened to him.

His Lordship was satisfied that neither of the parents had abused their child or any other children, either as a participant or as a witness. His Lordship was satisfied that both the parents had been subjected to a considerable injustice by having unsubstantiated allegations of child abuse made and pursued against them but that was not the fault of any individual but due to a combination of circumstance.

It was in E's best interest to return to his parents' home to their care unsupervised by the court or the local authority.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Jones.

Professional social workers must not pre-judge the issue. The important advice and information in Chapter 12 of the

Report should be followed.

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Single goal successes enable last season's two rivals for the Football League championship to remain in the forefront

ANTHONY PHILPS

# Art of brinkmanship gives Liverpool an edge in title pursuit

By Ian Ross

Liverpool 3

Southampton 2

IF SUCCESS in modern football is achieved by those teams which, at times, place a heavy and successful reliance on sheer good fortune, it does seem highly probable that Liverpool will win the League Championship this season.

Like Aston Villa and Arsenal, their closest rivals, Liverpool have been guilty of producing many performances of dubious quality over the past seven months. But on Saturday it was only the late emergence of their uncanny, if familiar, knack of salvaging a lost cause which saved them from embarrassment against a technically superior, if less committed, Southampton side.

Twenty-four hours before this game, at a time when he is normally at his most reserved, Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, had been at pains to impress upon his players the importance of total commitment in all the club's remaining fixtures.

In the past, Liverpool's form has suffered at the end of a week when the club's natural rhythm had been disrupted by the international commitments of its leading personnel, and it was as if Dalglish was

once again anticipating an adverse reaction.

His fears were amply borne out in an opening hour when Liverpool played with indiscipline and, more worryingly, apparent indifference. A normally productive midfield was largely impotent, and with the likes of Whelan and McMahon prone to the most naive mistakes, a rare home defeat seemed likely.

A goal was the last thing which Liverpool's desolate playing warranted, but, astonishingly, they claimed one in the 15th minute when Houghton's free kick was expertly headed in by Barnes.

Southampton's neat and orderly play was finally rewarded in the 37th minute when Ridderick rose unopposed to head powerfully home a Case free kick which had been flicked on by Moore.

The goal served to underline the complete lack of understanding within Liverpool's defence which played with such a casual disregard for its own safety that total capitulation would have been inevitable but for the presence of Hanson, the veteran Scottish international who was immaculate at a time when his colleagues seemed intent on damaging their reputations.

Commanding though Ham-

son was, he was powerless to prevent the visitors taking a deserved lead three minutes after half-time when Case fired home a stunning drive after Venison had carelessly allowed Wallace to steal possession.

An unlikely Liverpool revival had its roots in the introduction of Rosenthal as a substitute in the 70th minute. The Israeli international forward, who is on loan from Standard Liège of Belgium until the end of the season, won a corner two minutes after his arrival and Houghton's kick was turned into his own goal by Osman.

A victory which Liverpool scarcely deserved was won in the 83rd minute when Hayes intelligently headed into the path of Rush who swept home with immense power from 18 yards.

There was still time left for Wallace to miss a simple opportunity to level the scores and for Cherundoli to claim a place in history by becoming the first player from the Soviet Union to appear in the first division when he was introduced as a substitute in the 86th minute.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; G Hayes, G Hyam, G Venison, P Stretton, P Whelan, P Barnes, P Baerdorf, P Houghton, J Rush, J Barnes, S McMinn, P Rosenthal (sub: P Rosenthal).

SOUTHAMPTON: T Fotheringham, J David, A Cook (sub: A Chorlton), M Adams, K Moore, R Barnes.



Air craft: Cottee, the Everton forward, takes flight as Winterburn, left, and Beardsley, of Arsenal, prepare to pursue during Saturday's game

## Arsenal gain some consolation

By Vince Wright

Arsenal 1

Everton 0

ARSENAL'S return to form — three wins and a draw in their last five games — has probably come too late for them to retain their League title but the two main contenders, Liverpool and Aston Villa, will not rest their forthcoming visits to Highbury, where the hosts have dropped only seven points all season.

Although the big prize looks to have escaped Arsenal this time, there were little signs that they are the best of the rest. They were certainly too good for Everton on Saturday in what may best be described as a third-place match. The contest was not as close as the score suggests and it was difficult to take Everton's European ambitions seriously.

Albion's return to the fold this time, their second little dip since the start of the season, was the best of the rest. They were certainly too good for Everton on Saturday in what may best be described as a third-place match. The contest was not as close as the score suggests and it was difficult to take Everton's European ambitions seriously.

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## FOOTBALL

# Oldham's season in danger of being erased from memory

THE maxim that nobody remembers losers must be lurking unpleasantly at the back of the Oldham Athletic players' minds.

After all, sinking 1-0 at relegation-threatened Middlesbrough was hardly the ideal preparation for next Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United, to be followed by a Littlewoods Cup final meeting with Nottingham Forest at the end of the month.

Coming straight after the unexpected home defeat by Sheffield United in midweek, it dropped Oldham to eighth position, effectively commencing their league campaign to the pursuit of a play-off place rather than automatic promotion.

The result also did much to assuage alarm on Teesside, although Middlesbrough are still in danger of a fall from first to third division in successive seasons. Slaven's 26th goal of the campaign was struck from close range after Baird had headed down Proctor's corner in the 26th minute.

Yet despite their positions at opposite ends of the table, Middlesbrough and Oldham

Louise Taylor reviews the second division

have much in common. The first two second division sides to grace Wembley this year — Middlesbrough lost to Chelsea in the Zenith Data final last week — they are also arguably the best to watch.

Both build from the back, play the ball to feet, deploy wingers, and are not afraid to attempt the odd audacious back heel. The irony on Sunday was that Oldham enjoyed the bulk of the possession but provided little in the way of penetration; Middlesbrough's classic failing.

It might have been different on plastic, but with the enigmatic Davenport having one of his good games on the left, Baird bursting through the middle, Slaven clearly in confident mood after last week's scoring debut for the Republic of Ireland and Kershaw outstanding in defence, Middlesbrough were able to outplay Oldham at their own game.

If Middlesbrough and Oldham are all about fancy footwork, Wolves and Leeds are synonymous with the long ball, faced by offside traps.

Just like Oldham, Leeds were, for once, made to taste their own medicine at Molineux on Saturday. After Mutch intercepted Saty's ill-advised back pass in the 21st minute to score the game's only goal (thereby lifting Wolves to sixth place), United were unable to spring the trigger of the trap laid by Wolves.

Howard Wilkinson's Yorkshires remain on top, but their frustration was compounded by the news that Sheffield United had narrowed Leeds's lead to four points, courtesy of a 1-0 win at Stoke City.

As Swindon Town, in third place, once again exhibited symptoms of promotion jitters in the course of a nervous 1-1 home draw with Leicester City, it looks as if the Yorkshire club will monopolize the two direct entrances to the first division.

NEEDSBURGH: S Peers, G Parkinson, J Phillips, A Kemmish, S Colman, O Davies (sub: C Cooper), B Steven, M Barnes, D Baird (sub: S Ripley), M Barnes, P Dwyer, G Evans.

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**Darlington have the advantage**

By Mark Herbert

THE gulf between the professionals and the part-timers in the GM Vauxhall Conference was exposed on Saturday when Barnet, the leaders, were comprehensively outplayed by Darlington. The 2-0 defeat, in a capacity crowd of 3,880, moved the challengers to within a point, with three games in hand.

Barry Fry, Barnet's outspoken manager, said: "It was men against boys, and unfortunately, we were the boys. This is my biggest disappointment since I've been at the club. I'm embarrassed: they humiliated us."

Darlington's post-war non-League history is concise: relegated from the Fourth division last season after 68 years in the League, favourites to return this year. They have maintained their players on full-time contracts and the benefits were clear.

Borthwick gave Darlington the lead with a fortuitous goal in the seventeenth minute, a move inspired by Steve's back-heel in the air and finished by Corrigan, came a minute before half-time. The rest, for a defence which has conceded just 18 goals this season, the lowest of any Conference or League club, was a matter of containment.

The season has been simplified for Darlington in the last month. At one stage they seemed in danger of getting swamped with fixtures but recent elimination from the FA Trophy and Bob Lord Trophy has concentrated their attention on promotion.

For Barnet, who have finished runners-up twice in the three seasons since automatic promotion was introduced between League and Conference, the battle goes on. Fry has to motivate his players to get back to the grind of winning against lesser Conference sides and hoping Darlington slip up. Tonight, his players, less Regis, Hardinge and Beattie, who were injured on Saturday, travel to Stockport.

In the longer term, Fry thinks going professional must be considered. "Lincoln and now Darlington have showed the way," he said. "If Conference sides have any ambition to reach the League, they must consider going full-time."

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated  
FOOTBALL  
Barclays League  
Fourth division  
York v Exeter (7.45)  
Cambridge v Scarborough (7.45)  
Leyland Daf Cup  
Southern Area Final  
Notts v Bristol R (7.45)  
GM Vauxhall Conference  
Stanford v Barnet

Bob Lord Trophy  
Semifinal, first leg  
Northwich v Kidderminster

VALUABLE LEAGUE: Premier division  
Match of the Month (7.45). Fleetwood v Crofton v Kingsbury; Harlow v Underbridge (7.45). Second division south: Ruship Marsh v Peterborough (7.45). Third division: Allerton v Bitter Wigan Cup; Semifinal: Carlisle v Hereford.

PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Ashton Villa v Hull (7.45). Second division: Wigan v Warrington (7.45).

OVERSEAS PAPERS: COMBINATION: Crystal Palace v Arsenal; Oxford v Charlton.

BEAVER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Weymouth v Poole (7.45). YOUTH CUP: Second, second leg: Middlesbrough v Portsmouth (7.0).

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Walling v Erdale.

RYGUE LEAGUE: STALON LASER ALLIANCE: Sheffield Eagles v Bradford Northern.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: British Isles indoor international championship (previews).

BOXING: Amateur international championships: Liverpool v United States (Angus 4.30pm, Dundee).

MOTORCYCLING: Speedway challenge: Wolverhampton v Oxford (7.30). Gold Cup: Reading v Coventry (7.30).

## SPORT ON TV

BASKETBALL: Screenport 6-7.30pm. American legions.

SNOKER: Screenport 7-8.30pm and 9.15-10.45pm. Previews: Snooker: World Snooker: European 9-10pm. Superette: Leonard v Baines from Las Vegas.

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**Maidstone sustain promotion drive**

Keith Blackmore reviews the third and fourth divisions

weeks ago, I had to take stock of the situation. We had had a run of four defeats and it called for moving more men forward," he said. "We gambled and it put the onus on our defence. Today our back four were the key to our success."

Maidstone had installed an extra 400 seats at Welling Street to accommodate those they did not give their second largest crowd of the season much to cheer for almost half an hour. The heavily sanded pitch made considered actions difficult and it was an unconsidered one that opened the scoring.

Steve Butler, who enjoyed a particularly impressive afternoon, booted a high ball beyond the Southend outside trap. But, under pressure from Cox, he conceded a goal in the 37th minute by Taylor, the leading scorer in the division with 28, to earn a draw at home against Mansfield Town. Ian Holloway's 89th minute goal gave Bristol Rovers three points against Northampton Town.

Tranmere Rovers are second, separating the Bristol team, having won 3-0 on Friday, but Notts County kept the more valuable. Only nine points separate the leaders, Exeter City, who lost 2-1 to Hereford United, from Maidstone, who have moved into eighth place.

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The result stretched their unbeaten sequence to five games and gave Keith Peacock, their manager, particular cause for satisfaction. "Three or four

for satisfaction," he said.

**Aberdeen miss chance**

YET again, Aberdeen failed to apply maximum pressure on Rangers when they were offered an opportunity on Saturday to squeeze the defending champions' margin at the top of the Premier Division (Roddy Forsyth writes).

With Rangers obliged to wait until yesterday to fulfil their fixture with Celtic, Aberdeen travelled to Dens Park, where the victory over the bottom club, Dundee, would bring them within three points of the leaders.

However, Dundee, whose late revival has sustained their hope of avoiding relegation, opened the scoring through Wright.

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unbeaten sequence to five games and gave Keith Peacock, their manager, particular cause for satisfaction. "Three or four

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**Behind the scenes at Bramall Lane**

Keith Lawrence's guide to the best of the week's sport on television

Dooley having a leg amputated, to the Arabs wishing to annex Bramall Lane.

And, of course, we see David "Harry" Bassett, the chirpy cockney boss of a dour Yorkshire Club who may, according to one player "smile if we win by five" but who, if they lose, will produce a cacophony of bleeping that leaves those in the dressing room in shock.

Officially, United is described as a £250,000 documentary. Paul Pierrot, the producer, who lives by Charlton Athletic's old

We see the players who wait at home to worry when they hear on the radio that a player has been injured. No one bothers to tell them if he is all right — or if his career may be over.

We see the directors who learn of a take-over bid just as they seem to be making the breakthrough towards financial security. (Take a good look at those faces, they will tell you a lot about the occupants of League club board rooms.)

We see the players at their peaks and in their troughs and we are given an occasional insight into lives that go beyond being "as sick as a parrot."

We are shown the apprentices who clean the boots and dressing rooms and face the agonizing wait before being told whether they are good enough to be taken on. We see the tea-lady who has seen it all from Derek

• Australia won a three-way contest to stage the 1994 World Cup, at Sydney, drawing ahead of Ireland and West Germany in the voting at a meeting of the International Hockey Federation in Brussels.

**THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

TODAY: Showjumping: The Bercy International from Paris (Screenport, 2pm).

TOMORROW: Cricket: David Smith (and, possibly, David Gower) will be trying to win a Test place in the one-day internationals in Barbados.

WEDNESDAY: The Match: Nottingham Forest in Wembley form?

THURSDAY: Cricket: First day of the fourth Test — and it is West Indies nerves that will be jangling (Sky One, 3pm).

FRIDAY: Football: United, an everyday tale of football folk; the first part of a six-week series (BBC2, 8.30pm).

SATURDAY: Grandstand: The Grand National tops the bill, with all the drama of the world's most famous race (BBC1, 12.15).

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# Czech decision to play injured Korda gives US the edge

From Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, Prague

THE United States reached the semi-finals of the NEC Davis Cup for the second successive year, beating Czechoslovakia with an ease that had seemed unlikely after a finely balanced opening day. But, given the impetus of a 2-1 lead when Rick Leach and Jim Pugh won the doubles on Saturday, Aaron Krickstein decided the tie by subduing Petr Korda in the first of the reverse singles yesterday.

More for the sake of pride than anything else, Brad Gilbert beat Karel Novacek, playing in place of the injured Stejber, in the final dead rubber to give the United States a slightly flattering 4-1 win.

Increasingly bothered by a stomach injury, Korda could not find the same inspiration against Krickstein that he had found 48 hours earlier against Gilbert. On the other hand, the American, able to work the ball around from the baseline and impose his rhythm on the match, looked far happier against Korda than he had against Stejber.

In retrospect, the decision of Frantisek Pala, the Czechoslovak captain, to play both Stejber and Korda in the doubles in place of the advertised pairing of Novacek and Smid proved misguided. Even against Gilbert, Korda was continually rubbing a muscle in his side which he had pulled in practice on Wednesday and, though, as he later said, he survived that match on emotion, he could

not do so for three days in a row.

A day's rest rather than a demoralizing three-set defeat in the doubles might have put him in a better frame of mind for yesterday's crucial singles match against Krickstein. "We needed our best team in the doubles, so it was worth the risk," said Korda.

Though the memory of Korda's sublime display against Gilbert will linger long in the memory, the decisive factor in this tie has been Krickstein's unbending will. Having survived just his opening singles, he had to come through some more anxious moments before finally ending the painful memory of his last Davis Cup tie against Paraguay when he lost the deciding singles to Victor Pecci in straight sets.

"I am tougher now and there are fewer weaknesses in my game," explained Krickstein. "But that defeat stayed with me for a long time. I must admit it is surfaced again in the quiet American's mind, he did not let it show during his greatest moment of crisis, in the fourth set. Already pulled back to 2-1 after appearing to be in control, he faced two break points as Korda at last found the consistency to go with his aggression. Instead of buckling, the American won the next four points to hold his serve, broke in the next game and, within 10 minutes, was being mobbed by his team-mates after sealing the victory

## Bulgarian refuses to let go

HOUSTON — A brave, imaginative performance yesterday earned Katerina Malevska an unexpected 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 victory over Martina Navratilova in the semi-finals of the Virginia Slims of Houston tournament (Barry Wood, writes). It was her first defeat since the final of the Virginia Slims Championships in November.

The Bulgarian, who could also celebrate the fact that her sister Manuela had reached the final of the United States hard court championships in San Antonio, and that it was her younger sister Magdalena's fifteenth birthday, took advantage of a lapse in Navratilova's serve and refused to let go.

**RESULTS:** Second round: M. Navratilova (Us) bt A. Jemerev (Hun), 7-5, 6-2; Z. Garrison (Us) bt S. Coccioni (It), 6-1, 6-3; A. S. Vicario (Sp) bt M. Daniels (Us), 7-5, 6-2; K. Malevska (Bul) bt L. Gildemeister (Peru), 6-2, 7-5. Semi-finals: S. Vicario bt Garrison 6-7, 6-3, 7-5; Malevska bt Navratilova, 6-4, 2-6, 6-1.

## Lendl is upset by Grabb's serving

CHICAGO (AP) — Jim Grabb, ranked 35th in the world, upset Ivan Lendl, 6-3, 6-4 in the semi-finals of the Volvo Chicago tournament on Saturday. "When I'm serving well, I can beat anybody in the world," Grabb said after defeating the world's top-ranked player.

Grabb, who lost his only previous match to Lendl at San Francisco in 1987, said: "I feel I have a few more skills now, but I'm not prepared this time." The American served nine aces, all key moments in the 80-minute match. His victory was secured by a pair of aces during a game in which Lendl failed to return any of the four serves.

Grabb also won the first and third games of the opening set on aces and finished off Lendl in the ninth game of the first set with his fifth ace of the night. The right-hander, aged 22, also created a break point twice for pulling him through. "I was down 15-40 in the ninth game of the second set, and I was able to

hit three good second serves," Grabb said.

Lendl said Grabb deserved to win, but added that this week's tournament is different from a Grand Slam event. The Volvo Chicago tournament is considered an exhibition and does not count toward the ATP Tour rankings. "I live to win the Grand Slam events," Lendl said. "That's what tennis is all about."

In the final, Grabb was due to face the second seed and fellow American, Michael Chang, who had beaten Lendl 6-1, 6-2 in the semi-final. Chang served nine aces, all key moments in the 80-minute match. His victory was secured by a pair of aces during a game in which Lendl failed to return any of the four serves.

In the deciding third set,

Chang broke Lendl in the first game, was broken himself in the sixth only to break back in the ninth. Chang then held serve to clinch the match.

## FOR THE RECORD

### ATHLETICS

BUTTON COLDFIELD: Warrington national youth relay team 4x100m, 43.60; 4x400m, 3:26.70; 4x200m, 1:32.41. First division: 1. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 2. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 3. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 4. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 5. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 6. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 7. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 8. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 9. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 10. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 11. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 12. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 13. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 14. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 15. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 16. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 17. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 18. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 19. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 20. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 21. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 22. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 23. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 24. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 25. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 26. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 27. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 28. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 29. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 30. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 31. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 32. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 33. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 34. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 35. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 36. S. T. S. (2:26.70); 37. S. T. S. 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